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AUSTRALIAN AND BRITISH

SOCCER WEEKLY

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THE ADELAIDE CITY CONNECTION ...

CONGRATULATIONS

THE BLACK AND WHITES ARE PROVIDING NO LESS THAN NINE CURRENT AND FORMER PLAYERS TOWARDS TERRY VENABLES' AUSTRALIAN SQUAD TO FACE OUR UNKNOWN ASIAN OPPONENTS

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS ...

Editorial

STATISTICS AUSTRALIA

Soccer Australia have put together some statistics for the upcoming games against the, as yet unnamed, fourth-placed Asian team that will stand between our national side and qualification for the World Cup Finals in France next year.

Not only does it show the team is doing the business on the pitch, the backroom boys at SA are finally starting to get it together also, and credit must be given where it is due.

Here's what they came up with:

Goalkeepers
Mark Bosnich P10 W7 L2 D1
John Filan P2 W1 L1 D0
Zeljko Kalac P25 W12 L7 D6
Jason Petkovic P4 W4 L0 D0
Mark Schwarzer P5 W3 L1 D1

Strikers
John Aloisi P6 Gls 6
Graham Arnold P55 Gls 19
Damian Mori P30 Gls 11
Paul Trimboli P28 Gls 9
Aurelio Vidmar P28 Gls 11
Mark Viduka P5 Gls 1

Between The Rest
Alex Tobin P71 Gls 2
Milan Ivanovic P 53 Gls 0
Tony Vidmar P31 Gls 1
Ernie Tapai P29 Gls 5
Ned Zelic P26 Gls 3
Robbie Slater P24 Gls 1
Tony Popovic P20 Gls 0

The Bosses
Terry Venables:
Gm12 W12 L0 D0 F42 A4
Raul Blanco:
Gm2 W2 L0 D0 F11 A0
Eddie Thomson:
Gm53 W22 L21 D10 F55 A47

The Full 26 Man Squad
John Aloisi - Portsmouth
Graham Arnold - Sanfrecce
Matthew Bingley - Vissel Kobe
Mark Bosnich - Aston Villa
Robbie Enes - Portsmouth
Craig Foster - Portsmouth
Robbie Hooker - Sydney United
Steve Horvat - Hadjuk Split
Milan Ivanovic - Adelaide City
Zeljko Kalac - Sydney United
Harry Kewell - Leeds United
Stan Lazaridis - West Ham Utd
Craig Moore - Glasgow Rangers
Damian Mori - Adelaide City
Kevin Muscat - Wolverhampton Wanderers
Paul Okon - Lazio
Jason Petkovic - Adelaide City
Josip Skoko - Hadjuk Split
Robbie Slater - Southampton
Ernie Tapai - Perth Glory
Alex Tobin - Adelaide City
Paul Trimboli - South Melbourne
Aurelio Vidmar - Tenerife
Tony Vidmar - Glasgow Rangers
Mark Viduka - Croatia Zagreb
Ned Zelic - Auxerre

A strong looking squad and certainly one that looks more than capable of holding their own against our Asian opponents.

Our new Email Address is:— soccer@foreignlanguage.com.au

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THE ADELAIDE CITY CONNECTION

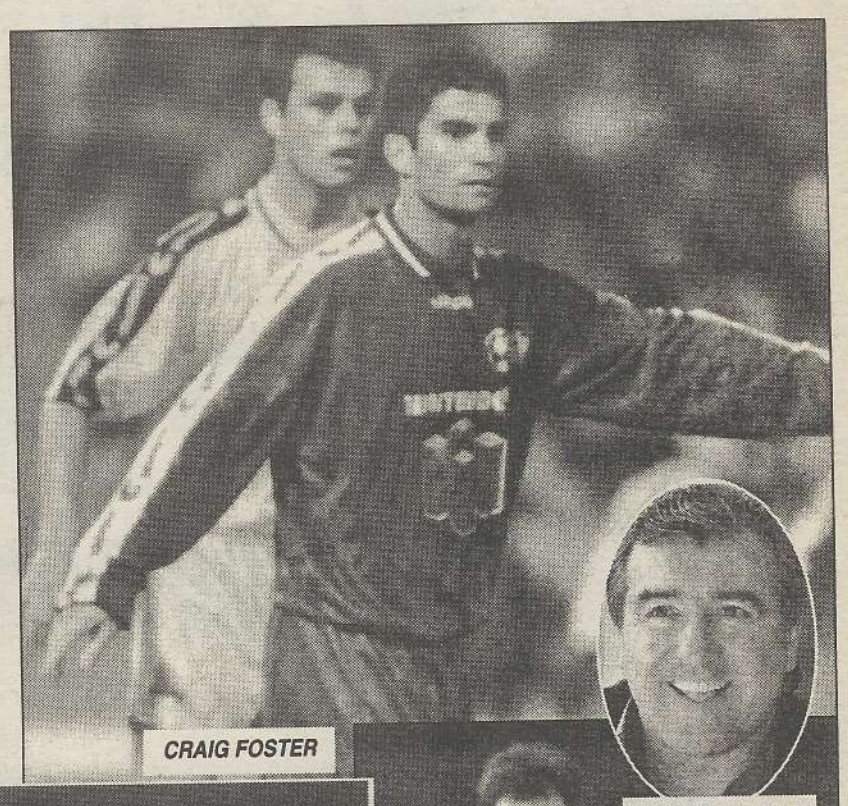
By Micky Brock

After announcing his 26-man squad for the games against our, as yet, unknown opponents, Terry Venables picked NINE current or former Adelaide City players.

The reality is that 35% of those chosen to represent Australia, in the two biggest matches since the triumphs of 1974 and disappointments of the 1986 and 1994 campaigns, have played for the black and whites.

Of those, four currently ply their trade in the 'city of churches': Alex Tobin, Milan Ivanovic, Jason Petkovic and Damian Mori, all of whom would form a cohesive unit in national colours.

The others are: Aurelio (Tenerife) and Tony Vidmar (Glasgow Rangers), Craig Foster, John Aloisi (who now play together at Portsmouth in England's Division One) and Ernie Tapai (now starring for Perth Glory).


CRAIG FOSTER

TERRY VENABLES

JOHN ALOISI

ERNIE TAPAI

It appears that not only do City bring in outstanding players to the side but produce plenty of their own too.

In just a few short days, Australia will find out who they meet and more importantly — defeat, if the dream of France '98 is to become a reality.

"Come on Aussie, come on ...

EASTERN SUBURBS SOCCER CLUB
SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS

DATES: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 15, 22 (Snrs. only)
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• Under 21 — 3p.m. COACH: Tom McMorrow Ph. 018 232459

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FOR YOUTH LEAGUE INFORMATION CONTACT:
John Velthuys on 018271712
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GOOD OIL...GOOD OIL...GOOD OIL...GOOD

By John Economos By John Economos By John Economos

By JOHN ECONOMOS

DESPITE him being only 27 years of age, Marconi's former international central marker Dominic Longo, has a strong passion for a rare, at his age, hobby.

Dominic's off the pitch love is, would you believe, antique restoration.

He visits various nooks and crannies, including scattered auctions, buying up old colonial style furniture which he diligently sits down and laboriously restores back to almost mint condition.

Dominic Longo: Marconi's modern antique restorer.

MATCH DAY programs in the NSL can, and usually are, informative, despite the labour utilised to compile them. The print product is not what one may suggest as being possessed with Shakespearean ability.

A recent Club program contained a player profile of one their own up and coming young stars.

Questions and answers were fine.

But when it came to the picture that was tagged to the profile - a little less than fine. In fact totally wrong!

The photo used was that of a team-mate.

Not only did this team-mate have a nil resemblance to the young midfielder profiled, but was nine years older.

Despite the rapid rumours circulating the ground after the program was distributed, 'Good Oil' was able to ascertain, and confirm, that the editor employed by the club to do the program, was, in fact, not Stevie Wonder.

◆ ◆ ◆

JOHN MARKOVSKI, Carlton's current (formerly heavyweight) striker, has won the greatest battle-and that's the one with himself.

'Big John' possesses the most lethal left foot in the National League, but has struggled for years with a massive weight problem.

The 27 year old 'Jonesy', as he's called by all his team-mates, has consistently been handicapped in delivering his full potential.

In 1988 Marconi coach Berti Mariani signed Markovski despite the striker, even then, looking well overweight.

A risky gamble by Mariani, but nevertheless under a special training program designed by Mariani for him, Markovski was rapidly able to shed weight down to just over 85 kilos.

So fit and relatively mobile had the 'Marconi-Markovski' become, Mariani was able to use him as a wide player on the left, getting him to sling his deadly accurate and powerful crosses over to his strikers with great effect.

Not only that, 'Big John' also was able to knock in 15 goals to boot.

Since leaving Marconi to return to Victoria, Markovski, over the years, has slowly but surely grown larger.

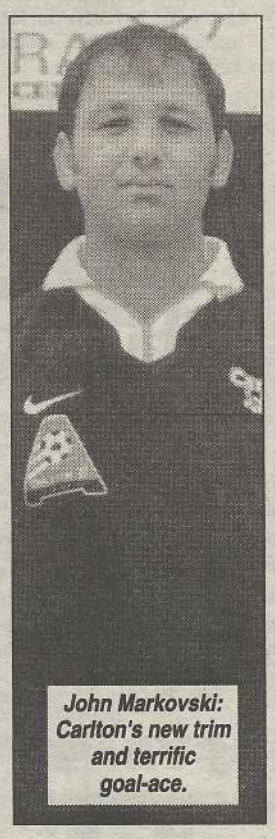
Always a big lad with a huge frame, his weight just a few months ago had rocketed to a gianormous 115 kilos.

During the off-season he finally won his most crucial battle.

Under the diligent eye and daily double training sessions during the off season, this time programmed by Carlton's coach and former Australian World Cup striker Eddie Krncevic, kilo upon kilo vanished from 'Big John's' frame.

By the start of this season 'Jonesy' was able to take the pitch leaving no less than 25 kilos of excess 'baggage' back in the dressing rooms.

In four matches to date, 'Jonesy' has already knocked in two goals and has surfaced as a lethal weapon for Carlton.


John Markovski: Carlton's new trim and terrific goal-ace.

ADRIAN ('NODDY') ALSTON is about to break back into Australia's top line Soccer.

The former Preston North End, South Coast United, St George, Luton Town, Tampa Bay Rowdies (Nth American Soccer League during the 70s) and Cardiff City striker, is expected this week to be officially appointed as the new coach of Marconi's Youth team.

The former Australian 1974 World Cup striker will take over the reins of incumbent Marconi Youth coach Alex Robertson, who 'Good Oil' expects to move across and takeover Blacktown City's squad in the NSW Super League.

Having coached Port Kembla in the Illawarra Soccer League to great success over the past four years, the totally humorous 'Noddy' is now eagerly looking forward to his new assignment out at the 'Palace'.

When Alston was first brought to Australia, back in 1968, from England by the wealthy President of the now defunct South Coast United, Trevis Birch, he was picked up at Sydney's international airport.

Mr Birch was totally unaware of Alston's dry humour.

On the way back south to Wollongong, Mr Birch pulled his huge 'Yank tank' (Buick) over at Bulli to treat Alston to his first Australian lunch.

Mr Birch-"Would you like a prawn cocktail to start off with Adrian?".

Noddy-"No thanks Trevis, I don't drink."

Adrian Alston: Marconi's new Youth coach.

◆ ◆ ◆

Dunga: Brazil's tenacious World Cup midfield captain.

ABSW READERS are expected to storm all supermarkets come June 11 next year to rapidly stock up on supplies of Nescafe coffee.

Reason??

In serious preparation for the 1998 World Cup Finals.

A total of 64 matches, (12 more than USA '94) will be played at 10 stadiums that will be telecast live across our planet.

But in Australia's case, most of these telecasts will be received here hours before sunrise.

For example, the opening match involving Brazil, the current Cup holders, will be televised Live at 2.30am Australian time.

But First Round kick offs are set down for 11.30pm, 1am, 2.30am and 6am.

Round 2 and Quarter Finals will see matches screened in Australia at 1.30am or 6am.

All semi finals will be screened at 6am our time.

The above matches culminate in the World Cup Final which, thankfully, will be played on July 13 at 6am our time.

◆ ◆ ◆

SYDNEY OLYMPIC late last week signed up a young mystery Argentinian player. The player, an attacking 19 year old midfielder, hails from Argentina's first division side Rosario Central.

So greatly did the young South American impress Olympic's coach at training sessions recently, that Geoff Harcombe immediately signed him up.

Together with a Brazilian, also signed, and coupled with young 15 year old Nick Carle (Chilean), Olympic's squad lately has been injected with a strong dose of South American flavour.

Geoff Harcombe: Olympic's coach.

◆ ◆ ◆

MICHAEL URUKALO, former coach of Apia-Leichhardt, Johor (Malaysia), Singapore and Heidelberg, is back in Sydney.

But on Friday he flys out on a three week coaching lecture mission to the tropical French Pacific paradise of Tahiti.

And Michael is being well paid on top for all this.

◆ ◆ ◆

WYNTON RUFER, New Zealand's long serving and exciting World Cup ace-

Michael Urukalo: Back in Sydney but off to Tahiti on Friday.

AN EVENING WITH

OPTUS VISION

Norman Whiteside

Melbourne 27th November 7.30pm – North Melbourne Football Club
Melbourne 28th November, 7.30pm – Richmond Soccer Club
Adelaide 1st December, 7.30pm – Plympton Sports and Rec Club
Brisbane 2nd Dec, 7.30pm – Rochedale Rovers Soccer Club
Sydney 4th Dec, 7.30pm – North Sydney Leagues Club
sydney 5th Dec, 7.30pm – Blacktown City Soccer Club

Tickets: $25 each
Bookings essential as numbers are limited.
To book, call 02 99043033, Fax 02 99044595

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THIS SATURDAY NIGHT
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
KICK OFF — 7.00 PM
EARLY GAME — 5.00 PM

PERTH GLORY

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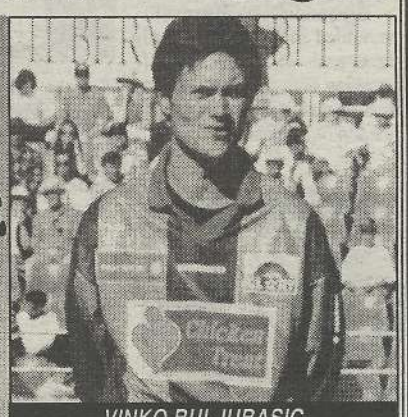
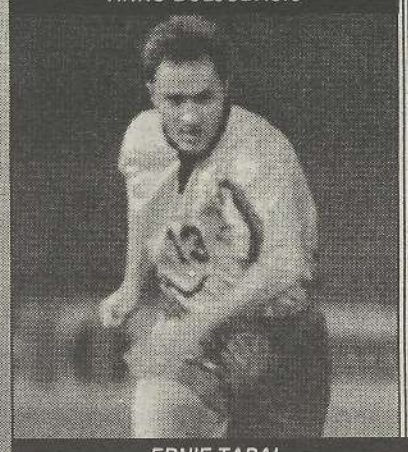
See the Stars Under the Stars


VINKO BULJUBASIC

FRANCIS AWARITEFE


ERNIE TAPAI

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GOOD OIL...GOOD OIL...GOOD OIL...GOOD

By John Economos

CONTINUED ... By JOHN ECONOMOS

striker, is currently back from Germany in the Shaky Islands.

The highly confident ex-international is coaching the North Shore United club in New Zealand's inaugural season of their national Soccer League.

But 'Good Oil' has been informed that Rufer is not content to just coach a club side and is right now shooting for Joe McGrath's national spot.

◆ ◆ ◆

AUSTRALIA'S WORLD CUP captain, and skipper of Adelaide City, Alex Tobin, when he assembles next week with the national squad to prepare for battle in our last hurdle to get to the World Cup Finals, and it will be just like a Club Reunion for him.

The 'Black and Whites' will have no less than nine current and former Adelaide City players in Terry Venables' squad heading overseas, possibly to Saudi Arabia.

Besides Alex, the Vidmar brothers (Aurelio and Tony) plus John Aloisi, all kicked off their senior careers with the 'Black and Whites' before heading off to link up with European clubs.

Milan Ivanovic, Jason Petkovic, Craig Foster, Ernie Tapai and Damian Mori, have all since joined and played for the South Australian aristocrats.

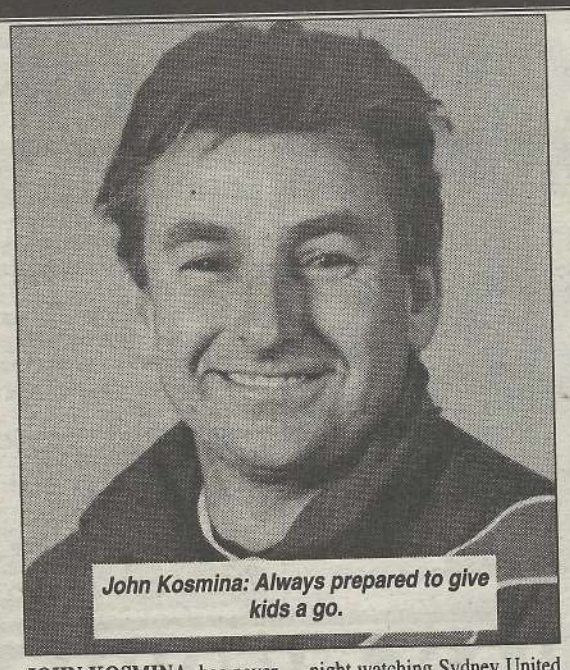
◆ ◆ ◆

NICK BOSEVSKI, Sydney United's young striker, last Friday night suffered a nasty head injury that required no less than 10 stitches after the match.

In United's clash against Newcastle Breakers at the Parramatta Stadium, seconds before halftime, Bosevski raced in from the left to meet an Abbas Saad cross from the right.

Horrendously Bosevski stumbled inside the six yard box and went head first crashing onto the right upright that opened a nasty wound on the top of his head.

Nick Bosevski: Sydney United striker suffers nasty injury.

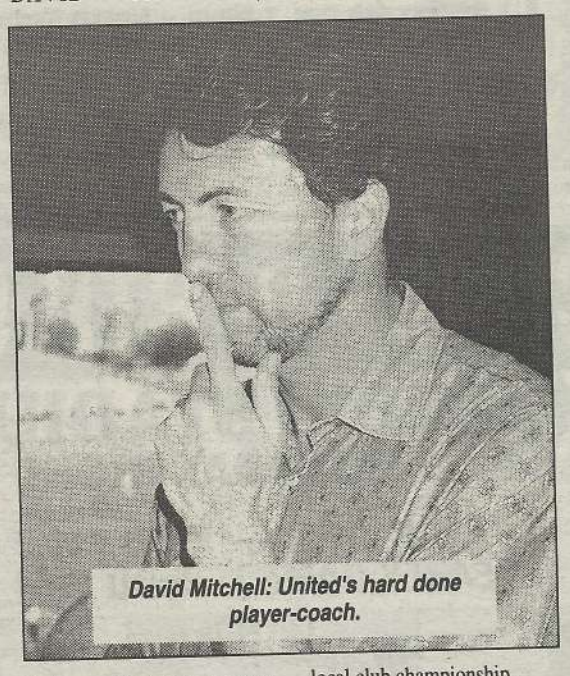

John Kosmina: Always prepared to give kids a go.

JOHN KOSMINA, has never been afraid to give Youth a real go whilst many other coaches only just talk about it.

Last Friday night inside the Newcastle dressing rooms at the Parramatta Stadium, the scene looked more like a school classroom rather than a senior NSL dressing room.

◆ ◆ ◆

DAVID MITCHELL, Sydney United's player-coach, who was two weeks ago sent off on an alleged charge of spitting, is understandably far from happy.


David Mitchell: United's hard done player-coach.

According to 'Big Mitch', he was just spitting out some blood after copping an unexpected punch in the mouth.

Although media reports last week stated that Mitchell had been punched by a Melbourne Knights player, in fact that player had punched the United coach twice, not once.

An inquiry is pending.

◆ ◆ ◆

IVAN RAZNEVICH, the former coach of Melbourne Knights - 1988 to 1990 - was seen unexpectedly last Friday night watching Sydney United play Newcastle Breakers.

Raznevich was back in Australia after a one year coaching stint in Singapore where he recently won the Championship with club side - the Warriors.

Whilst with the Knights, Raznevich won two NSL Cup finals.

In 1984 he also had a season in, of all places, Saudi Arabia, where again he won a local club championship.

He will then rush back to Malaysia to see the Final of the highly prestigious Malaysian Cup in mid December.

◆ ◆ ◆

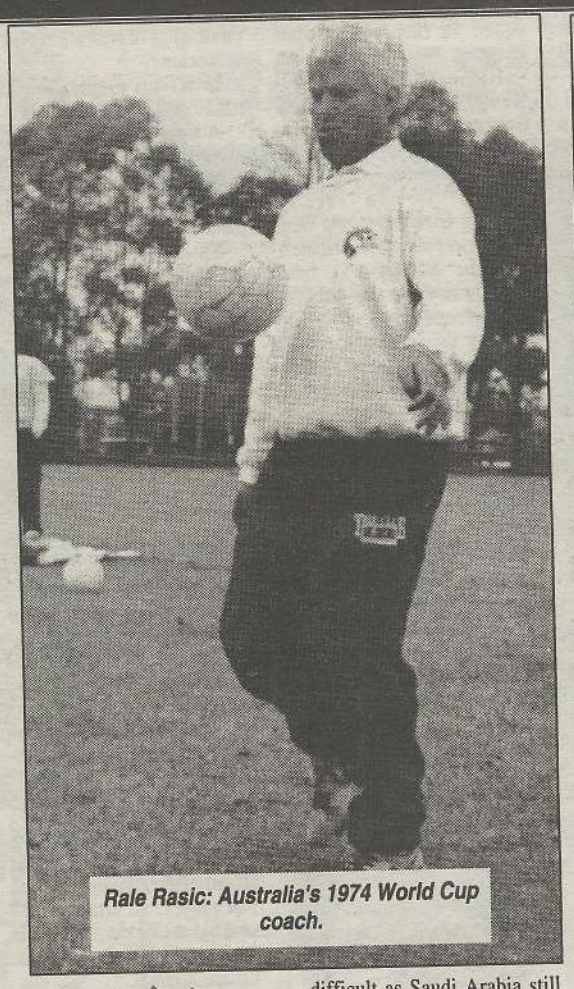
SHOULD AUSTRALIA's Asian World Cup qualifying opponent, heaven forbid, end up being Iran, national coach Terry Venables would do well to urgently contact our 1974 World Cup coach Rale Rasic for some valuable and most needed advice.

If Australia has to fly to Tehran, (and we will know in five days if this will be the case), Venables, Tobin and Co will find the joint most daunting to say the very least.

Australia will be flying into a less than hospitable country where the natives are always restless to the arrival of their 'footballing enemy'.

Australia's game will start not on Match Day (November 22), but from the very moment our squad lands in the Iranian capital, as Rasic's 1974 squad today, vividly remember.

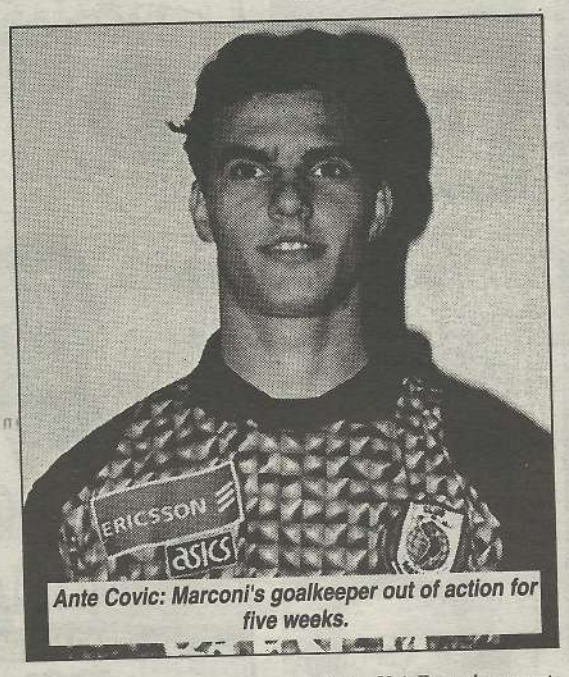
The less time spent in Tehran before the match, the better.


Rale Rasic: Australia's 1974 World Cup coach.

◆ ◆ ◆

ANTE COVIC Marconi's newly signed towering goalkeeper from the Leichhardt Tigers during the off-season, will not be fit to re-commence training for at least another four weeks.

Covic suffered a ruptured kidney in Marconi's home match against Canberra Cosmos when he collided with substitute striker Marko Perinovic.



Ante Covic: Marconi's goalkeeper out of action for five weeks.

A SHOCK 2-0 loss by Iran last weekend against highly unfancied Qatar, is making Australia's life increasingly difficult as Saudi Arabia still clings on to second spot in Group A, one point behind the deadly Iranians.

Group A	Pts
Iran	12
Saudi Arabia	11
Qatar	10
Kuwait	8
China	8

Group B	
Sth Korea	16
Japan	13
U.A.E.	9
Uzbekistan	6
Kazakstan	6

Meanwhile in Group B, Japan thrashed Uzbekistan 5-1, also at the weekend, to now consolidate their place in second spot three points behind, who now certainly look the unassailable leaders, South Korea.

Good Oil, in previous editions, had forecast the danger or possibility that Australia may have to face the Saudi's or Iranians on Nov 22, not the U.A.E. as the experts previously predicted.

Let's pray Australia's national coach Terry Venables, does not have to clash with Iran in eleven days time.

Tomorrow (Wed), Qatar takes on Saudi Arabia.

Should the Saudis take maximum points from this battle, not only will they leap-frog Iran into the lead but will bounce straight into France automatically, leaving behind Good Oil's greatest fear, Iran to face Australia in eleven days time.

After Iran's shock 0-2 defeat by Qatar, the entire Iranian coaching staff was sacked.

David Hill: Soccer Australia chairman.

SOCCER AUSTRALIA chairman David Hill strongly denied over the weekend that the crowds in the Ericsson League are not down.

Rubbish!

Adelaide City, Newcastle Breakers, Sydney Olympic, Sydney United, Melbourne Knights and Adelaide Sharks have all, in the first six weeks of the current campaign, seen their home gates pathetically plunge.

This is especially the case for Sydney Olympic whose crowds are drastically down by no less than a monumental 45% on last season.

Only Perth Glory's treasurer is smiling these days as their huge home crowds have not only been sustained from their inaugural season last year, but have in fact increased by at least another 1,500.

◆ ◆ ◆

DAVID MITCHELL, Sydney United's heroic player/coach, despite performing miracles on the pitch, after taking over what at first seemed to be 'team-Titanic', still remain undefeated and head the current NSL ladder.

But 'Big Mitch', together with his Board of Directors, are most concerned by the alarming drop in home crowds at their 'new' home, Parramatta Stadium.

During the off-season, the Board was threatened with expulsion from the League if they did not shift across to the ground.

It is most obvious to one and all, except SA, that United's supporters strongly have resented this transition from their beloved former home, the Croatian Sports Centre, Edensor Park.

This they are vividly showing by abandoning attending matches at Parramatta Stadium in their droves.

Last Friday night, United's home game against Newcastle Breakers strongly underlined this resentment as no less than 1,400 spectators entered the stadium.

◆ ◆ ◆

SYDNEY OLYMPIC last Sunday, at a well attended extraordinary meeting, held at their social club in Hurlstone Park, held to consider the crucial vote on the privatization of its soccer team, ended as expected in a stalemate.

◆ ◆ ◆

After a large number of people addressed the meeting, including only one of the 'White Knights' interested in taking over the club, it was finally resolved to defer a decision until December 8 at another meeting.

Meantime, Sunday's gathering did resolve that a sub-committee of seven be formed, headed up by the former, and long serving President of the Australian Soccer Federation, Sir Arthur T George, to look deeply into and examine each privatization proposal extensively.

The laborious meeting extended no less than four and a half hours, after which no final decision could be determined.

AROUND THE CLUBS

Continued...

OKON SURPRISE INCLUSION

VIC UPDATE
By DWYGHT TUFFNELL

Paul Okon is the one surprise inclusion in the Australian squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against an as yet unknown Asian opponent.

Okon, who has a wretched run with injuries, made the squad on the strength of a reserve game for Lazio that Socceroo coach Terry Venables saw in Rome recently.

El Tel was impressed but did concede that it could be a risk to bring him into the starting eleven for such games when he knows very little about the system or tactics.

But Venables didn't rule out the possibility of Okon starting, saying: "I wanted to include him because we know what a quality player he can be."

Australia's coach has stuck with a 26-man squad saying it was necessary to have such a large party in case of injuries and the distance problem should they be required to call up someone at the last moment.

Leeds youngster Harry Kewell also made the squad after recent excellent performances in the English Premier League.

"Harry has been terrific for Leeds, he fitted in nicely for our game in Tunisia and there is no doubt he is an outstanding talent," said the Australian supremo.

One surprise exclusion is that of goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer. He has recovered from a broken arm and is in superb form for Middlesbrough but has been overlooked in place of Adelaide City's Jason Petkovic.

One problem that Venables has is the match-fitness of some of his best players.

"It's a problem when players aren't playing on a consistent basis. It's not an ideal situation but it's one we have to deal with," he lamented.

Aurelio Vidmar is the real concern, playing just one game in five months, and has expressed his own fears about playing in the crunch games. But the Socceroo supremo almost indicated that Vidmar is likely to play.

"I can play someone who is playing regularly, which Aurelio isn't, but won't have that same quality that Aurelio would."

Ned Zelic has not been playing much for Auxerre, Stan Lazaridis has been injured at West Ham as has Robbie Slater at Southampton. Craig Moore makes the squad despite recovering from a broken foot playing in Glasgow Rangers reserves.

ERGIN MOVES TO TURKEY

VIS youngster Erol Ergin has taken up a contract at Turkish First Division club Samsunspor.

Ergin, who has represented Australia at Under/17 level, joined the Turkish club after a trial.

He played in the Victorian Premier League with Melton Reds and first played at senior level when he was 14 with North Coburg United. He was with the VIS for two years before taking up the chance to join Samspunspor.

VIS Head coach Ernie Merrick has had to replace both Ergin and Michael Ferrante, who has gained a scholarship at the AIS.

Below the 1997/98 scholarship list for the VIS, the TARGET column indicates which Australian under age competiton they will be available for selection in.

NAME	POSITION	CLUB	TARGET
1-Martin John	Goalkeeper	Melton Reds	U/20 1999
2-Stiven Merkela	Defender	Altona Magic	U/20 2001
3-Ljubo Milicevic	Defender	Melb. Knights	U/20 2001
4-Serhat Hulusi	Midfield	Melton Reds	U/20 1999
5-Steve Laurie	Defender	Bulleen Inter	U/17 1999
6-Adrian Cuzzupe	Midfield	Green Gully	U/20 1999
7-Ben Cassar	Midfield	Gippsland Falc.	U/20 1999
8-Damian Cassar	Mid/Sweeper	Gippsland F.	U/20 2001
9-Bill Petrovski	Striker	Preston Lions	U/20 1999
10-Zoran Petrevski	Striker	Altona Magic	U/20 1999
11-Darko Stojilkovski	Midfield	Sunshine Georg.	U/20 1999
12-Patrick Arcuri	Striker	Wangaratta City	U/20 1999
13-Laz Zaekis	Striker	Preston Lions	U/20 1999
14-Boris Ovcin	Midfield	Springvale City	U/17 1999
15-Mustafa Mustafa	Midfield	Melton Reds	U/20 1999
16-Fab Lettieri	Midfield	Bulleen Inter	U/17 1999
17-Naum Sekulovski	Midfield	Moorabbin City	U/17 1999
20-Tony Calleja	Goalkeeper	Sunshine Georg.	U/20 2001

WILLIAMS OUT FOR THREE MONTHS ...

NNSW UPDATE
By DANE SKAFTE

Breakers' new recruit, Mick Williams, will be sidelined for the next three months after suffering a broken leg against Perth Glory in Newcastle's third home game of the season.

Plenty of hard work at training, and some strong performances off the bench, earned him a debut spot in the starting line-up. This tragically came to an end, however, after only nine minutes when he and Glory striker Bobby Despotovski collided heavily. Williams came off second best while the Perth star suffered only a slight knock.

Williams was treated for several minutes by medical staff as he lay on the ground in agony.

"I was waiting for the pain to go away but it didn't. Once I was on the stretcher I realised I had done some serious damage," he recalled.

The 22-year old former Highfields striker signed a one-year contract with the Breakers a few months ago.

"Kosmina rang me one week after the Grand Final and asked me to come to training. Everything went OK and I signed a week later."

A determined Mick has declared he will fight very hard, when the plaster comes off, to regain his place in the team.

"When I was at the hospital getting x-rays, the doctors told me I was lucky because it was a clean break," said a relieved Williams.

◆◆◆◆◆

BREAKERS' exciting forward Benn Lane was expected to make his full debut last weekend in the clash against Sydney United.

Lane, in his rookie season, had an outstanding year with First Division club Hamilton Olympic, and was also 'NBN Soccer Player of the Year'.

He came on for the final ten minutes in the loss against Perth Glory recently, scoring a memorable long-range goal to give Newcastle some hope at 3-2.

Meanwhile, former captain Troy Halpin will be available for this week's match after having served a suspension for yellow card offences.

ERICSSON CUP Soccer is back on MELBOURNE RADIO

Stereo 97.4 FM will be broadcasting live matches every weekend for all those fans who can't make it to see their favourite team play live.

This week the match of the day is Melbourne Knights against Adelaide City live from Knights Stadium, with all the action called by Greg Blake and Tony Schebecci.

The show goes to air at 5.30pm and there will also be competition giveaways as well as a talkback segment and interviews plus much more.

Fans can get all the updated scores from around the grounds on the only broadcast of Australian soccer in Melbourne, always starting half an hour before the game.

Adelaide UPDATE

By Val Migliaccio

KIWIS FOR 'A'LEAGUE

FORMER ADELAIDE City and New Zealand 1982 World Cup representative, Glenn Dodds, reports the Kiwis are ready to field a team in the Australian A-League.

Dodds, who has family in New Zealand, said finance is not a problem with a host of big backers ready to put their cash behind a team from Auckland.

ALOISI HAPPY AT POMPEY

AUSTRALIAN STAR and Portsmouth striker John Aloisi spoke to TAB Radio last week and was very happy about the state of the game in England, even though Portsmouth are currently near the bottom of the first division.

He believes the side is good enough to get out of the relegation zone and went on to say: "There is not as much pressure in England as there is in Italy with football. In England I am enjoying my game. In Italy the game is slow in the first two thirds of the pitch and then it speeds up in attack. Here in England it's fast throughout the match."

Aloisi also does a lot of promotional work for Portsmouth and is 'flavour of the month' amongst fans, gaining 'superstar' status. He currently heads Portsmouth's top scorer list.

EVERYBODY KNOWS GLORY

I WAS in an Adelaide cafe the other night and had the pleasure of meeting a group of people from Perth. My first question to them was: "Do you follow soccer at all?"

Their response was "No!" so I followed up with: "Well, have you heard of the Glory then?".

"Of course we have, they are coached by Gary Marocchi who played in Adelaide."

I was amazed and the moral of the story: Congratulations Perth Glory, your marketing department is second to none!

ADELAIDE — THE COACHING HAVEN

A REMARKABLE fact regarding the Ericsson Cup is that six of 14 current coaches played for either of the Adelaide clubs. Look at the line-up:

Adrian Santrac (Ad Sharks coach) - City and Sharks

Adrian Santrac: Yet another ex-Adelaide City player coaching in the Ericsson Cup.

John Nyskohus (Ad City coach) - City

Gary Marocchi (Perth coach) - City

John Kosmina (Newcastle coach) - Sharks and guest stint with City

David Mitchell (Syd Utd coach) - City

Zoran Matic (Marconi coach) - City

It would be interesting to find out who have influenced their coaching careers. (Wonder if they invite each other over for a 'barbie' when they meet during the season?).

ST GEORGE WSL SOCCER ASSOCIATION

1998 NSW WOMEN'S STATE LEAGUE FIRST DIVISION TRIALS

All interested players are invited to attend trials for the above club who are applying for 1st Division in 1998 and need to expand on their current playing strength.

The Club were Division II Premiers in 1996 and 1997 and Champions in 1997.

The trials will be held at Peakhurst Park, Trafalgar Street, PEAKHURST on the following days:

WEDNESDAY, 19TH NOVEMBER 1997, at 7.00pm
SUNDAY, 23RD NOVEMBER 1997, at 5.30pm
WEDNESDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER 1997, at 7.00pm
SUNDAY, 30TH NOVEMBER 1997 , at 5.30pm

For further information please contact Russell Baker

ON 9649 6218(H),9735 1217(W)
OR 0419 462505(M)

RYDE CITY SUPER LEAGUE TRIALS

1st Grade: and Under 21:
Mon evenings
6.30pm
Meadowbank Park

Under 18:
Thur evenings
6.30pm
Meadowbank Park

All enquiries: *Les DeCelis*
Phone:
0414 999 133

YOUTH LEAGUE TRIALS

All enquiries: *Warwick Andrews*
Phone: 9899 4004

Greystanes SOCCER CLUB

FEDERATION DIVISION 1 or 2
TRIALS

FIRST GRADE, UNDER 21S
UNDER 18S

BATHURST STREET PARK,
BALLINA STREET, GREYSTANES
Sunday 16, 23, 30 November 1997
Sunday 7, 14 December 1997
COMMENCING AT 8.30AM

FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT
MARK CRITTENDEN
(M) 0417 247 890
RON HARPER
(W) 9647 1388
(H) 9688 3612

G.D.S.F.A. GREYSTANES SOCCER CLUB

Vale... SERGIO GIROTTO

Dear Sir,

On Sunday October 26 the newly appointed Club Coach of Tahmoor Soccer Club, Sergio Girotto, was attending a Level Two Coaching Course at Macarthur Rams in Campbelltown.

During the course he collapsed after suffering a massive heart attack and was pronounced dead on arrival at Campbelltown hospital, despite desperate attempts to revive him by doctors, ambulance officers and Rams officials.

His funeral service was held on 31/10/97 at Tahmoor and was attended by over 300 people, including a large contingent from the Italian community, and former Socceroo coach Rale Rasic.

As you can imagine, all concerned are devastated. To help his widow and children, we are holding a benefit dinner to raise funds to ease the pain, including an auction on the night. It would be greatly appreciated if anyone could help out with donations for this auction (autographed ball, shirts etc). You can contact us on (02) 468 19757. Thank you.

Carole and Gary Ashton
(On behalf of Tahmoor Soccer Club)
Tahmoor, NSW

Editor's Note: On behalf of the staff at ABSW we send our deepest condolences to the Girotto family. R.I.P.

'Trimmers': Saluted by his fans for his 300th game.

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Letters to the Editor

Have your say on any soccer issue in the world. Preference will be given to short letters. Include daytime phone number for verification.

The Editor,
AUSTRALIAN & BRITISH SOCCER WEEKLY
PO BOX 155,
MARRICKVILLE
NSW 2204
Fax: (02) 9550-9332

Short letters of about 400 words will be given preference in this column.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of this newspaper

CLUBS NOT "FAIR DINKUM"

Dear Sir,

Early into the Ericsson Cup season and the signs are already apparent that many teams are not doing enough to broaden their horizons and entice new supporters to their games.

I am a true believer of the 'Hill Theory' that a successful football competition can only be achieved by club teams appealing to mainstream Australia.

I myself have not attended an Ericsson Cup game this season, and will probably not do so, because the current crop of Sydney teams have failed to make me feel comfortable in the past when attending their fixtures.

I want to support a team where I feel it belongs to myself and the supporters, with no political ties. I have been fooled on too many occasions in the past and until a Sydney team is introduced that appeals to all Sydneysiders, I will continue to watch the games on Optus.

As a regular viewer of Optus Ericsson Cup games, I am still witnessing ethnic flags among the supporters, (Greek, Croatian, Italian).

It's obvious club management is to blame for not addressing their supporters. 'Hellas' and 'Croatia' chants are continuous from the supporters, and all of this when clubs have reputedly set-up Lakers/Knights etc supporters clubs.

If clubs were 'fair dinkum' they would have removed ethnic flags from supporters, they would have eradicated ethnic chants and made wholesale changes to their club structure, but then again, if they were against removal or modification of club logos, what hope do we have of a true National Football League for ALL Australians?

The answer belongs with David Hill and his administration because prior to his appointment there was no hope, no future.

With Hill there is hope and the introduction of the successful Perth Glory and Carlton, let's hope a Sydney team will be next and the league is reduced to ten teams with fully professional players.

Be warned, those afraid of change in the past, and present, will not survive and will not be part of the future structure of the Ericsson Cup.

Supporters, like myself and others, are hopeful that in the near future we will be returning to the terraces and chanting for our 'Sydney' team, with our 'Sydney' flags and a welcome for ALL Sydneysiders.

William Costa
Mosman, NSW

Editor's note: As you say, you have not attended a game this season and therefore have not noticed, for example, the changes at Sydney United and others . I have no doubts that your repeated mention of a 'Sydney' team would have nothing to do with the 'Northern Spirit' side being muted at present ...

What media coverage?

Dear Sir,

The electronic media did a good job of ignoring Terry Venables' announcement of the final squad for the World Cup elimination matches last Thursday. Flicking from ABC to commercial radio stations during the day revealed nothing!

Never mind, the local TV news at 6.00pm must give this a bit of a run, Craig Foster, a local boy and dedicated supporter of Soccer Far North Coast, should be in the team but nothing!

Never mind, the ABC 7 o'clock news will be a definite certainty. But no soccer is mentioned, plenty of cricket, perhaps ABC stands for 'All Bloody Cricket'?

Never mind, Channel 9's 'Good Morning' show will do the right thing, the following day? Again NO soccer!

The sports expert talked about cricket and rugby but ignored our team in line for a place in the world's greatest sporting event — the World Cup.

Where are the soccer administrators falling down on the job?

Why does the arrival of an imported basketball player's girlfriend rate a mention on a national commercial radio network at midday while the same network very rarely gives results of Ericsson Cup matches?

Maybe, Mr Editor, your editorial last week gives us the answer. The clubs and associations are failing to supply the news to the media and, as we know, first in makes the news, those that are sloppy with copy and/or are late miss out.

Soccer Australia should lay down the law on the clubs, now that they themselves are lifting their own game in this present era, and insist that clubs and associations service ALL media and grasp every opportunity for promoting the game.

George Green
Alstonville, NSW

Editor's note: SA are attempting to do the right thing but the electronic media still shy away from reporting the game, with the exception of SBS and Sports Tonight (usually). No doubt they'll jump on the bandwagon soon enough.

Come on Australia!

(To the tune of 'Waltzing Matilda')

Once jolly football fans stopped off at the Cricketer's Arms,
Before heading off to the MCG,
And they sang as they watched and waited for the game to start
"Come on Australia, Socceroos and TV"

Chorus

Come on Australia! Come on Australia!
You are the Socceroos, the one team for all,
From the kids in the park,
To players 'cross our continent (all sing)
Come on Australia, to World Cup Football!

Down from history come legends
of our heroes of '74,
Those men who wore the Gold and the Green
of Warren, Watkiss, injured Baartz,
Buljevic and Alston too,
Some of the greatest that our game has seen

Chorus

Now a new generation
some home grown, some overseas,
Line-up to hear our anthem call,
After 24 years of living next door to Alice's place
we want the wonderland of World Cup Football!

Chorus

Can you hear us Ned, Paul, Alex, Mark, Aurelio?
Can you hear us singing, you stand not alone,
When the going gets tough, on the road to your dreamtime,
Your green and gold army will cheer you on home!

Chorus

Chorus

Chris Kunz,

Tribute to the Little Master

Dear Sir,

The Lakers fans from Sydney would like to congratulate Paul Trimboli on his 300th game, played at Marconi Stadium recently, and wish him many more.

Also we would like to thank the supporters who came up from Melbourne with their magnificent sign (seen on the cover of last week's ABSW).

As we only get an opportunity to watch 'Trimmers' about half a dozen times a year, we were pleased to celebrate with him his contribution to Australian Soccer and South Melbourne Lakers Soccer Club.

Paul has proven to be a great role model for the game. He is a perfect gentleman on and off the park.

'Trimmers' we, the Lakers Supporters of Sydney, salute you.

Aris Athans
Penrith, NSW

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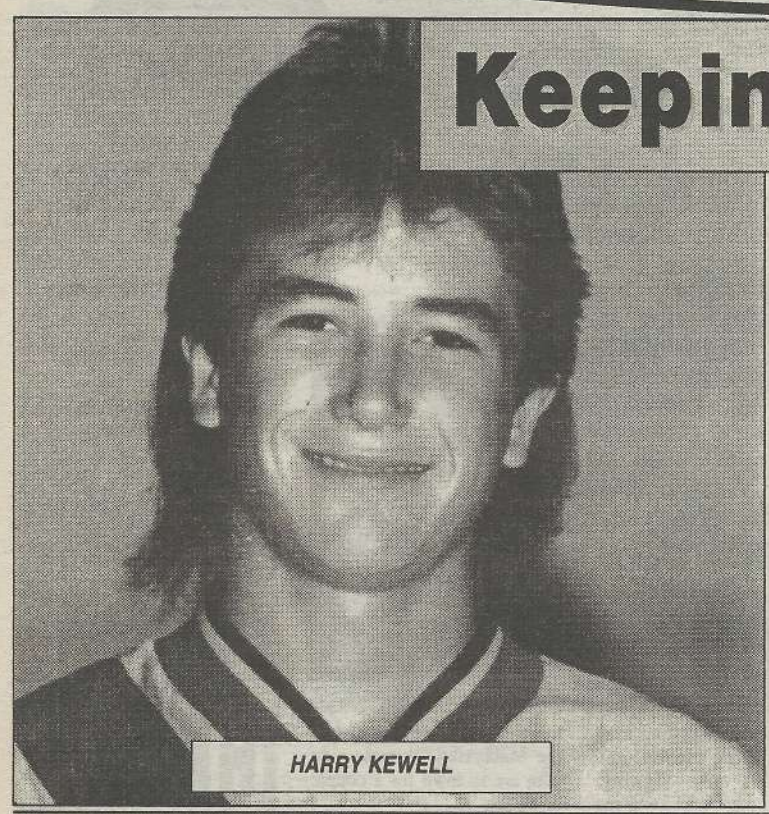
Keeping Kewell this Summer...



HARRY KEWELL

By Micky Brock

Former Marconi junior, Harry Kewell, was a little known youngster when heading off to the greener pastures of English football, but boy has he made his name since!

Kewell now plays with Leeds United in the English Premier League, probably the toughest and best league in the world at present, and this season has seen him cement a place in the starting eleven as a striker.

Although not considered a serious contender for a spot in the national squad a few short months ago, Kewell put his head down, grafted hard and the fruits of his labour are beginning to show.

Firstly with the trip to Tunisia, coming on as a substitute and being instrumental in Australia's third goal, and culminating in being named in the squad of 26 to face our still unknown Asian opponent for the right to go to France next year for the World Cup Finals.

The youngster could not play in the World Youth Championships in Malaysia due to injury, but it appears, every cloud has a silver lining.

The chances are that he may not get a start in either of the two upcoming matches but, having greatly impressed Venables, the lad surely has a very bright future ahead of him for club and country.

Australia's coach was quoted as saying, "I have been tremendously impressed with him and he's performing on a consistent basis."

At 19 years old, Kewell is certainly a teenager with the world at his feet.

ABSW wishes the lad, and the rest of the squad, all the very best in the coming weeks.

"We're proud of you!"

Australia to Open Tri-Series Campaign Against China in Lismore

The Australian Women's Soccer Team will have a chance to assess how far their recent successful tour of Europe has improved them, when they take on world superpower China in Lismore on November 16.

China, who won Silver at the Atlanta Olympics, are ranked second in the world behind the USA, while Australia's ranking has jumped to 12 after wins over Sweden, Hungary and Estonia on their Euro tour in August.

The eagerly anticipated clash with China is the opening match in the Tri-Series competition which also includes arch-rival New Zealand, who the Matildas are up against in next year's World Cup qualifiers.

After the opening game against the Chinese at Lismore's Oakes Oval, Australia will meet New Zealand at Newcastle's Topper Stadium on Wednesday 19 November, before China takes on New Zealand in Canberra on the November 21.

The Matildas will be hoping for a berth in the final at Canberra's Manuka Oval on November 23.

The staging of the series in Northern NSW and the ACT reflects the strong growth rates for Women's Soccer in these regions, with interest particularly high in Lismore for the opening match.

The Northern NSW city has never hosted a Women's international before, and with local star Lisa Casagrande in the side, a big turnout is expected.

Casagrande, and Australia's coach Greg Brown, made a promotional visit to Lismore last week; both being impressed with the quality of the surface at Oakes Oval.

Brown has been at the helm of the Matildas since April and is determined to forge an attacking style of play as their trademark.

"In the past we've been sucked into worrying about other sides and have been overly defensive, but I'm looking to developing a more flexible format that gives a lot of opportunities for players to push forward and attack from any position," he said.

"But obviously the Chinese will be favourites, they're skilful, highly disciplined, fit and very experienced," Brown added warily.

The Matildas are yet to beat China in three encounters, but came close in 1996, losing 2-1 and 1-0 just prior to the Olympics.

One of the key figures in Brown's planning is sure to be attacking midfielder Lisa Casagrande, 19, who is already a three and a half year veteran of the side.

She will be psyched up for a big game in front of her home crowd for the first time ever, saying: "It's great just to play in your own country, but it's going to be something really special to play here in Lismore."

MANLY-WARRINGAH SOCCER ASSOCIATION INC. MWSA

STATE LEAGUE 1ST DIVISION TRIALS

Manly Warringah Soccer Association and the Warringah Dolphins have unified State League Soccer in the Manly Warringah Area.

Coach: TONY PEZZANO invites players to attend Selection Trials at CROMER PARK

UNDER 18s Saturday 15th and 22nd November 8.30am

UNDER 21s and 1st GRADE Sunday 7th and 14th December 10.30am

Enquiries: MARK CHANNELL 99231544 (B) 99440220 (H)

National Youth League *Round 6*

By Roy Hay

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

UTS Olympic v Sydney United (4 p.m. Sydney Football Stadium)

Sydney United Colts v AIS (4 p.m. Sydney United Sports Stadium)

Marconi Fairfield v Bye

Bye v Wollongong City

Southern Division 7-10 Nov: Carlton continued its winning ways with a two-one win over Melbourne Knights at Optus Oval. Club captain Alan Hunter made his long awaited return to competitive soccer in this match and scored after 12 minutes.

Adam Pongho made in 2-0 33 minutes in, but it took the Knights 83 minutes to get on the scoresheet, through Midi Trupkovic.

Albury Wodonga seemed about to break its duck when it took an early 2-0 lead through goals by Pezzini and Tudor over Gippsland Falcons in the Latrobe Valley.

But a spirited fight back from the Falcons resulted in a goal though Al Cheney in the 56th, and then two later efforts by McEvoy and Hugo Giminez, saw the Falcons through, but only just.

The Victorian Institute of Sport recorded its first win of the season against South Melbourne Rockets by four goals to one.

Bill Petrovski scored inside a minute as VIS pressured the Rockets straight from the kick off. Zoran Petrevski added a second with a header from a Petrovski free-kick. Leigh Squillaciotti pulled a goal back for the Rockets on 51 minutes but Petrevski converted a cross from Damian Cassar on the hour and in the final minute Serhat Hulusi made a fine run and his pass was controlled by Adrian Cuzuppe, who finished it with his left foot.

Heidelberg United caused an upset with a two-nil win over South Melbourne on Friday night. Mile Medjedovic scored after 15 minutes and Dragi Jugovic just before the interval. South Melbourne hit the crossbar with a shot, but the 'Burgers' were delighted with the victory and might have had a couple more goals.

After a tight goalless first half, Bentleigh Greens scored twice in the second to defeat Altona Magic at Paisley Park. Kourkoutzelos and Christou were the scorers.

Northern Division 7-9 Nov:

There were some very tight matches in the Northern Division starting with the two-all draw between Sydney United and Newcastle Beakers at Parramatta Stadium. Peter Juchniewicz put the visitors ahead after 22 minutes and Joel Griffiths equalised for United in 42.

Jason Culina's goal after 56 minutes put United in front and the turning point came when the home side were awarded a penalty. Had it gone in it might have settled the game, but the miss gave the Breakers a chance, and Tony Bauer equalised in 70 minutes.

The AIS and QAS drew three-all in a very physical, but high quality, match at the AIS Soccer Stadium. Mile Sterjovski was the hero with a hat-trick starting after 22 minutes. Daniel Invincible equalised just six minutes later only for Sterjiovski to score his second 12 mins later.

When Strejiovski competed his hat trick after 75 minutes, it seemed the points were secure for the AIS, but in a remarkable turnaround, Andrew Parker scored twice for the Queenslanders, who had two players sent-off in a physical finish to the game.

Both coaches, Steve O'Connor and Gary Phillips, wanted to concentrate on the numerous passages of highly skilled play earlier in the game. Apart from the goalscorers, midfielder Gianni Culpo stood out for the QAS.

NSW Institute of Sport had a comprehensive five-nil win over the ACT Academy of Sport. Goals came from Daniel Watkins (2), Joseph Corrente and Shane Candell-Sheriff.

See results on page 9 ...

Mark Read's Darwin All Sports

Sports betting on all major International Events

Champions		World Cup		UEFA	
5.00	Real Madrid	4.25	Brazil	3.75	Inter
5.50	Man Utd	6.50	Germany	5.00	Ajax
6.00	Juventus	8.00	France	5.00	Atletico Madrid
7.00	Bayern	9.00	England	7.00	Lazio
9.00	Parma	10.00	Italy	11.00	Schalke
9.00	Dortmund	11.00	Spain	21.00	Karlsruhe
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		13.00	Holland	21.00	Aston Villa

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ERICSSON CUP

Match Reports

FOUR IN A ROW FOR GLORY

PERTH GLORY .....1 UTS OLYMPIC 0

By Richard Kreider

A late goalkeeping change failed to prevent Perth Glory from securing a 1-0 victory against UTS Olympic at a packed Perth Oval last Sunday.

It was the Glory's fourth consecutive win and one that lifted them to fourth place on the Ericsson Cup ladder.

"I don't worry about the run of wins, it's the three points that matter," said Glory coach Gary Marocchi.

"We had a few opportunities, where we had made better quality crosses into the box, we could have buried them," he added, commenting on a first half which arguably contained some of the best football of the season.

A back strain to regular custodian Tom Maras compelled Marocchi to bring in former Socceroo Anthony Franken (another indication of the depth of the squad), after Maras' injury failed to respond to treatment 24 hours earlier.

And as it turned out, the Glory debutant did everything asked of him even though Olympic, his former club, did not really test him, thanks mainly to the solid backline marshalled by the superb Vinko Buljubasic.

Danny Hay, Scott Miller and especially Gavin Wilkinson, managed to neutralise dangerman Norman Tome.

With last season's home loss still fresh in their minds, Glory lunged at their Sydney opponents from the outset, only to find their eagerness producing a spate of off-side calls from referee Eddie Lennie.

When Glory eventually found their range, Bobby Despotovski brought the best out of Olympic keeper Bobby Catlin after 30 minutes play.

Six minutes later Danny Hay was just a fraction too late to put away a Gareth Naven corner that had been glanced on to the back post.

Just before the interval, Glory finally took the lead through Nigerian international Samson Siasia, when he powerfully headed home an Ernie Tapai cross for his third goal of the season.

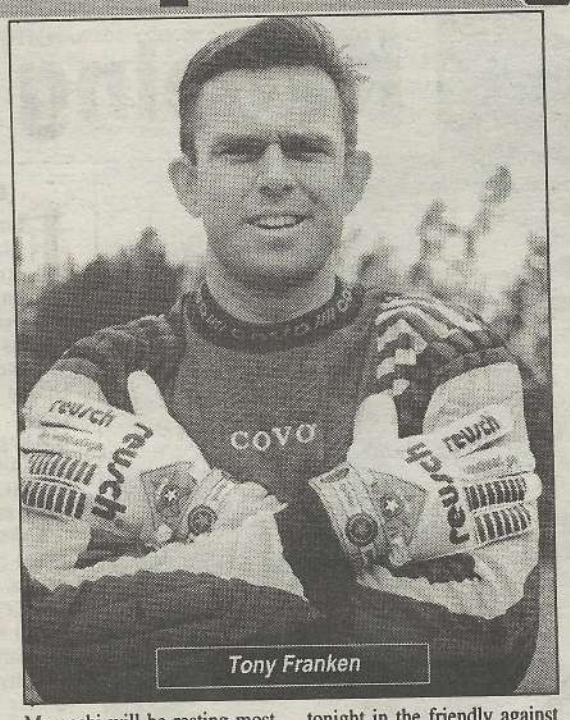
Despotovski should have made it two a few minutes later after rounding Catlin, but, with the net at his mercy, he directed his final touch across the face of the goal.

The second half failed to produce the same sparkle as the first, with both sides nullifying each other in the middle third.

When Scott Miller whipped a long-range effort across the front of the Olympic goal, the visitors hit back after 70 minutes when an unstoppable shot from the always busy Walter Ardone skimmed the wrong side of Franken's cross bar, and this was followed by Brett Emerton's run through the defence, which forced the Glory keeper to once again save his side.

The home team, however, hung on despite losing Scott Miller, who copped a knee to the ribcage, Despotovski, who caught a flying elbow to his left eye, and Samson Siasia with a corked leg.

Meanwhile, Glory coach Marocchi will be resting most of his starting eleven, and giving his new signing, Nigerian Peter Anosike, a run tonight in the friendly against the Malaysian Olympic side who are in town for a couple of weeks.


Tony Franken

Perth Glory: Franken, Wilkinson, Buljubasic, G. Naven, Miller (McVittie 78), Strudwick (Halpin 74), Despotovski, Tapai, Siasia (Vukmirovic 89), Hay, Carbone.

UTS Olympic: Catlin, Ciantar (Baillie 45), Tome, Tsekenis, Emerton, De Marigny, Ardone, Carle, Eagleton, Rodrigues, Zerda (Hristodoulou 37).

SCORERS
PERTH GLORY: Siasia 39
Crowd: 16,905

WOLVES STUN HAPLESS MARCONI

WOLLONGONG WOLVES .....5 MARCONI 1

By Phil Murphy

Wollongong Wolves struck three times in the space of seven minutes before halftime on the way to a demolition job on Marconi at the WIN Stadium on Sunday night.

It was one of Wollongong's best performances for a long time as they raced to a 4-1 lead at halftime, and they simply toyed with their opposition in the second stanza as some of their precision passing saw the Marconi players chasing shadows.

Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos had little to say after the game, claiming that his players had done the talking for him.

Nevertheless, Wolves captain and 'Man-of-the-Match', Matt Horsley, was quick to praise the loyal Wolves fans, saying they had played their part in the win.

"With support like that, combined with the way we played tonight, we are going to have a very successful season," he enthused.

Meanwhile Marconi coach, Zoran Matic, said his players were very disappointing, adding that if his players want to lie down no-one will help them.

"We conceded possession for Wollongong to score three goals just before halftime," he noted ruefully.

The Wolves hit the lead inside the first minute with marker Alvin Ceccoli driving the ball home from 12 metres after the Stallions failed to clear an Anthony Surjan corner-kick.

The visitors hit back and were rewarded with an equaliser through Christian Care after good lead-up from Sean Babic and Brad Maloney.

That was virtually the last serious attack Wolves goalkeeper Brett Hughes had to contend with. After 37 minutes Horsley won the ball and sent it on to Tony Perinich, who, from the bye-line provided Scott Chipperfield with a great opportunity and the dangerous striker found the net.

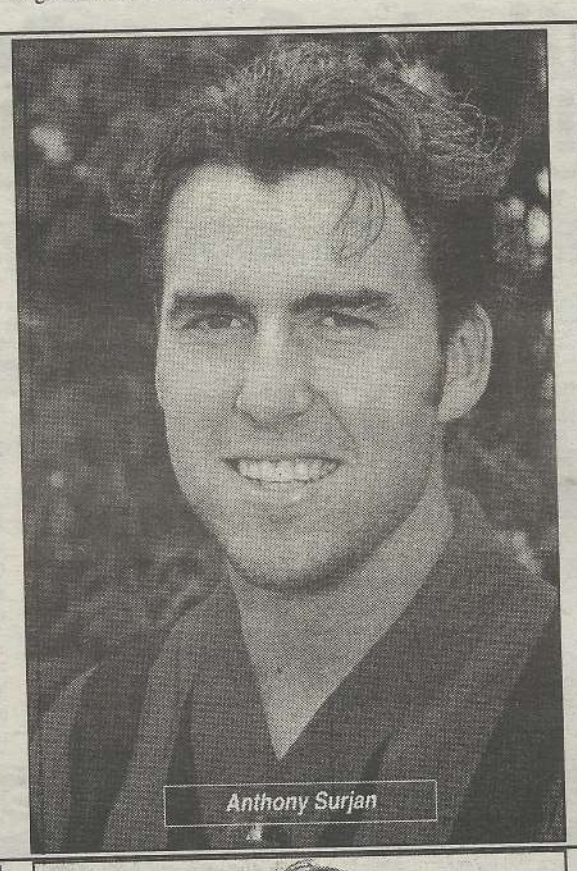
Five minutes later Ceccoli allowed Sonny Sevin to burst clear on the right and Chipperfield again found the net.

Sweeper Jason Connelly made it 4-1 after the busy Anthony Surjan took a corner on the right. At this stage Marconi looked very ragged as the Wolves were simply 'on fire'.

Surjan was rewarded for a fine performance with a goal from the penalty spot to make it 5-1, when a defender handled a shot from Connelly after 70 minutes.

With a now four goal buffer, the Wolves turned on the style in front of a healthy crowd of almost 6,000.

After a slow start, Wollongong Wolves have sent out a clear message to the rest of the Ericsson Cup: they are going to be a force this season.


Anthony Surjan

Wolves: Hughes, Ceccoli, Connolly, Horsley (Younis 85), Harlock, Reda, Surjan (Reda 88), Spencer (Huxley 85), Chipperfield, Perinich, Souris

Marconi: Gibson, Casserly, Souris, Renaud, Zoric, Care, McDonald, Van Cuylenberg (Lamond 65), S.Babic (Longo 89), M.Babic, Maloney

SCORERS:
WOLLONGONG: Ceccoli 1, Chipperfield 36,39, Connolly 42, Surjan 67p
MARCONI: Care 15
Crowd: 5,733
POY
3 Horsley (WC)
2 Surjan (WC)
1 Sevin (WC)

MORI STRIKES BRISBANE DOWN

ADELAIDE CITY .....1 BRISBANE STRIKERS.....0

By Val Migliaccio

Adelaide City's premiership quest is slowly gaining momentum after defeating a solid Brisbane Strikers 1-0 last Sunday at Norwood Oval.

The pitch had a direct bearing on the quality of football played with one half looking quite reasonable and the other looking very poor.

A Damian Mori solo effort in the first half was enough for the Zebras to hand the Strikers their fifth loss in six games.

Brad Hassell made a welcome return to Adelaide line-up after suffering a broken arm, and his presence, just behind the front two, was immediately felt.

City started the match with Kris Trajanovski and Mori up front in attack and the deadly duo did enough to suggest that their partnership will cause many Ericsson Cup sides plenty of headaches this season.

The Zebras also included the baby of the side, 17-year old Nick Sabjlak, who caused the Strikers' defence plenty of problems and his impact was a positive one for the home side.

Kosta Salapasidis was left out of the 14-man squad with another 17-year old, Travis Dodd, filling his place on the bench.

Brisbane greatly missed suspended player /coach Frank Farina partnering the usually unflappable Rod Brown, who was lacking support up front.

Sean Cranney, making his 100th appearance for Brisbane, came back from injury and played an important part in midfield.

The home side, however, made their intentions clear from the start when forcing a corner after just 30 seconds of play and in the second minute the brilliance of Strikers keeper, Ross, came to the fore when he pushed a Mori header over the bar from point blank range.

From the ensuing corner, John Gibson squared the ball for Hassell who just missed the target from eight metres out.

City didn't have it all their own way when, after 13 minutes, Brisbane's Jeremy Harris let fly a 22 metre half-volley which just sailed over the bar.

Trajanovski supplied Hassell the perfect ball five minutes later but, sadly, the ball bobbled just as the player made contact and it went wide of the intended target.

The only goal of the game came in the 32nd minute when Mori used his pace and strength to outgun the Strikers defence, found himself inside the box and shot with his right foot, on the turn, which took a deflection off a defender and passed Ross as it flew into the back of the net.

Brisbane had the chance to equalise three minutes later but Brown's header, from two metres out, was unbelievably saved by Petkovic.

Brisbane introduced Craig Williams in the 74th and he came close to scoring two minutes later.

Adelaide coach John Nyskohus was relieved after the match: "I was happy with the way Mori and Trajanovski played today and the form of Sabjlak was good on the left."

Sean Cranney

Adelaide City: Petkovic, Armour, Ivanovic, Tobin, Costanzo, Mori (Dodd 90), Hassell (Brooks 57), Gibson, Trajanovski, Thomas (Yates 85), Sabjlak.

Brisbane Strikers: Ross, Gwynne, Bell (Battistin 51), S.Cranney, Brown (Knipe 60), T.Cranney, Brayshaw (Williams 73), Hews, Harris, Laybutt, Harper.

SCORERS:
ADELAIDE CITY: Mori 32
Crowd: 4,988
POY
3 Mori (AC)
2 Trajanovski (AC)
1 Ross (BS)

ERICSSON CUP

Results Round Six

Sydney United	2	Newcastle Breakers	0
South Melbourne	4	Adelaide Sharks	1
Carlton SC	1	Melbourne Knights	1
Gippsland Falcons	0	Canberra Cosmos	0
Perth Glory	1	UTS Olympic	0
Wollongong Wolves	5	Marconi Fairfield	1
Adelaide City	1	Brisbane Strikers	0

Round Seven Fixtures

Odds courtesy of SportOdds

FRI, NOV 14	New. Breakers	Draw	Carlton
	2.60	3.15	2.40
SAT, NOV 15	Can. Cosmos	Draw	Bris. Strikers
	3.00	3.25	2.10
	Marconi	Draw	Perth Glory
	2.00	3.25	2.85
	Gippsland Falcons	Draw	Sth Melb.
	3.30	3.10	1.80
SUN, NOV 16	Ad. Sharks	Draw	Woll. Wolves
	2.30	3.20	2.70
	UTS Olympic	Draw	Syd Utd.
	2.75	3.25	2.25
	Melbourne Knights	Draw	Ad. City
	2.50	3.25	2.50

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Round 7 Preview

By Stuart Jones

NEWCASTLE v CARLTON SC

Newcastle lost to Perth in their last home clash and are out to knock-off high flying Carlton. Two former Australian stars clash head-to-head in the coaching stakes, and it could be Kosmina's side which pulls off the surprise of the weekend, at the expense of Krncevic's Blues.

Newcastle were involved in the most draws, except for the Zebras, last season, but Carlton will be looking to take home all three points.

PREDICTION: High-scoring draw.

CANBERRA v BRISBANE

Cosmos are looking for their first win at Seiffert Oval and this assignment will be tough. Last season this game at Bruce Stadium ended 4-1 to the Strikers in Round Ten. It will be a tough ask for Cosmos not to lose again.

PREDICTION: Brisbane in a closer game than last season.

MARCONI v PERTH GLORY

Marconi lost the corresponding fixture last season 1-2 and a week later could only draw 1-1 at Perth Oval. After their last home result, Marconi will be looking to gain maximum home points from this one.

PREDICTION: Draw

GIPPSLAND FALCONS v SOUTH MELBOURNE

Frank Arok always ensures it's a tough visit and there is added spice when Melbourne clubs come to town. Last season this fixture ended goalless, the opening game of the season for these two teams.

PREDICTION: South Melbourne

ADELAIDE SHARKS v WOLLONGONG CITY

Both sides play entertaining football so it should be quite a spectacle. Last season the game ended 3-1 to the home side.

PREDICTION: Wollongong in a high scoring game

UTS OLYMPIC v SYDNEY UNITED

Last year Olympic stalled the all-conquering Sydney United juggernaut, drawing 1-1. Of course both teams have reshaped in the summer but it will probably be another close affair.

PREDICTION: Sydney United

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS v ADELAIDE CITY

The Knights will not say die this year, and will hope to improve on the 0-0 result they took from this match last term. Adelaide City finished number one in terms of defence last season, a title they will not want to relinquish, and will hopefully hold the Knights goalless once again.

PREDICTION: Adelaide City

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sydney United	6	4	2	0	10	3	14
Carlton SC	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
South Melbourne	6	3	3	0	14	7	12
Perth Glory	5	4	0	2	10	10	12
Marconi Fairfield	6	3	1	2	1	8	10
Adelaide City	5	3	0	2	8	7	9
Adelaide Sharks	6	3	0	3	10	11	9
Wollongong Wolves	5	2	1	2	9	4	7
UTS Olympic	6	2	1	3	7	9	7
Melbourne Knights	6	1	3	2	6	7	6
Newcastle Breakers	6	1	2	3	8	11	5
Gippsland Falcons	6	1	2	3	2	6	5
Brisbane Strikers	6	1	0	5	2	8	3
Canberra Cosmos	6	0	2	5	3	13	1

National Youth League *Round Six*

By Roy Hay

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Friday 7 November 1997

South Melbourne 0 — Heidelberg United 2
Medjedovic, Jugovic

Altona Magic 0 — Bentleigh Greens 2
Kourkoutzelos, Christou

Saturday 8 November 1997

Gippsland Falcons 3 — Albury Wodonga 2
McEvoy, Giminez, Cheney — Pezzini, Tudor

VIS 4 — South Melbourne Rockets 1
Petrevski 2, Petrovski, Cuzuppe — Squillaciotti

Carlton 2 — Melbourne Knights 1
Hunter, Pongho — Trupkovic

NORTHERN DIVISION

Friday 7 November 1997

Sydney United 2 — Newcastle Breakers 2
Griffins, Culina — Bauer, Juchniewicz

Saturday 8 November 1997

NSWIS 5 — ACTAS 0
Watkins 2, Corrente, Wearne, Cansdell-Sheriff

AIS 3 — QAS 3
Sterjovski 3 — Invincible 2, Parker

Sunday 9 November 1997

Marconi Fairfield Colts 0 — Sydney United Colts 0

Wollongong City 0 — Marconi Fairfield 0

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Carlton	5	5	0	0	13	2	15
Gippsland Falcons	4	4	0	0	8	2	12
Melbourne Knights	4	3	0	1	19	5	9
Bulleen Inter	5	3	0	2	5	4	9
Heidelberg United	5	3	0	2	6	6	9
Bentleigh Greens	5	2	1	2	6	5	7
VIS	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Altona Magic	4	1	0	3	3	10	3
South Melbourne Rockets	4	1	0	3	6	22	3
South Melbourne	4	0	1	3	3	8	1
Albury Wodonga	5	0	0	5	5	10	0

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ERICSSON CUP

Match Reports

COSMOS GAIN FIRST POINT

GIPPSLAND FALCONS.....0 CANBERRA COSMOS.....0

By Damian Tripodi

In a game where a win was deemed essential to both sides, Gippsland Falcons and Canberra Cosmos played a goalless draw at Falcons Park last Saturday evening.

The home side completely dominated proceedings for almost the entire 90 minutes, yet, as has been the case in recent games, they were unable to find the net. While the entire team played exceptionally well, Frank Arok must urgently solve the problem of the attacking line, as yet again, the lack of a 'true' striker sorely stood out.

The Falcons had to win in order to keep in touch with the top six and for Canberra, which has been without a win in their last 14 games, needed to restore some pride for its suffering fans.

The draw gave Cosmos their first point for the season, while the Falcons, with five points, are sitting not too far above them on the Ericsson Cup table.

Right from the beginning the Gippslanders began attacking the Canberra goal. Arok's team was playing as a cohesive unit with creative, attacking play; it could be said that it was one-way traffic.

It was often left to the brilliance of Cosmos goalkeeper Tony Giannasca to save the visitors.

The Falcons first chance came in the third minute when the impressive 18 year old John Hutchinson received a cross from Will Hastie. 'Hutchie', however, under great pressure took a little too long in disposing of the ball.

It wasn't until 20 minutes into the game that an opportunity presented itself for Canberra. Ante Moric's free-kick from outside the box rebounded off several Falcons defenders before Harry James managed a shot which brought keeper Jim Kourtis into the action.

The Gippslanders, however, should have been on the scoreboard in the 24th minute. Will Hastie's curling corner hit the upright and deflected back into play — the ball was collected by Tony Sekulic who sent in a shot only to see it rebound off the cross bar.

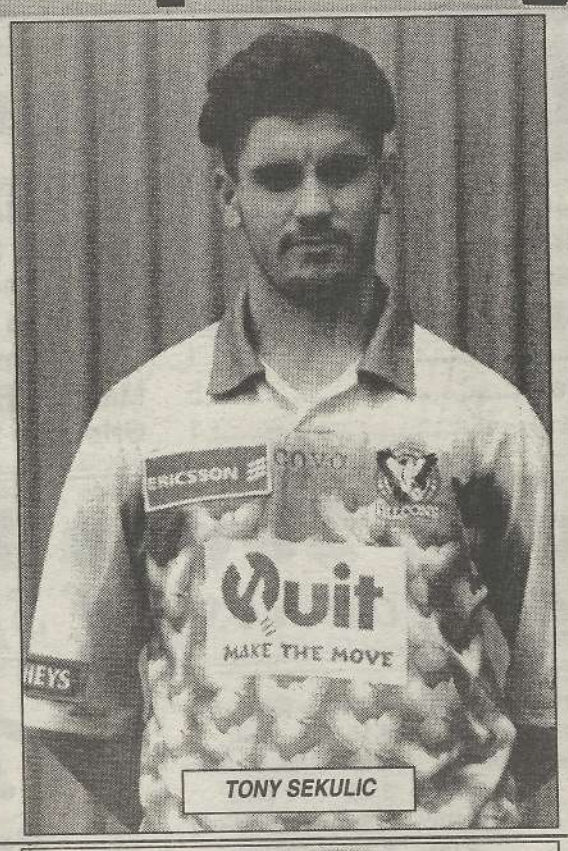
Frank Arok's men maintained the pressure, but one must also praise Canberra's fighting spirit for not giving in to the Falcons' onslaught.

Gippsland's Mark Foy and Clayton Bell combined well in front of goal after 35 minutes, but without a positive result and, five minutes later, good exchanges between Foy, Palamaras and Hastie led to the latter sending a cracker of a shot in, forcing Giannasca to make one of many brilliant saves.

The second half belonged to the Falcons, however it was destined that the points be shared.

At the conclusion, Falcons' coach Frank Arok said: "The team put in 100%, but couldn't score."

Cosmos coach, Branko Culina said later, "We always knew that it was going to be a tough game because of Arok's hard working style of play," he stated.



TONY SEKULIC

Gippsland Falcons: Kourtis, Bell (Osman 68), Canosa, Gotis (Byrne 71), Sekulic, Palamaras, Tsaltsas, Foy, MacNicol Hutchinson, Hastie (Thompson 65).

Canberra Cosmos: Giannasca, Dee, Roberts, Zelic, Moric (Brown 55), Hunter, Kelly, James (Ravanello 65) Buljan, Popovic, Haythornthwaite.
Crowd: 2100
POY
3 Sekulic (GF)
2 Dee (CC)
1 Hutchinson (GF)

KIWI SAVES UNBEATEN BLUES

CARLTON.....1 MELBOURNE KNIGHTS.....1

By John Rigas

Melbourne Knights produced their best performance of the season to come away with a 1-1 draw against the undefeated Carlton at Optus Oval on Saturday.

The visitors played some excellent football early on and were the better team as they continually pressured the home side. In the fifth minute midfielder John Didulica dribbled his way through the Carlton defence and let fly with a shot that brought the best out of goalkeeper Dean Anastasiadis.

Knights continued to dominate and in the 24th minute the impressive Zeljko Susa floated a free kick into the box only to have the ball cleared to safety by Con Anthopoulos.

A minute later, Carlton's New Zealand international Mark Atkinson let go with a thunderous strike which Knights keeper Joe Didulica saved superbly.

John Didulica troubled Carlton's defence on a second occasion, this time in the 31st minute, when his shot was blocked by David Cervinski.

The visitors had an impact on the scoreboard a minute before the interval when a Susa corner was expertly headed in by Ivan Kelic.

Nevertheless Carlton were on level terms in the 55th minute when Robert Trajkovski laid the ball off for New Zealand's Mark Atkinson, whose thunderous low shot went in off the bottom of the upright.

Explosive Knights attacker Tom Pondeljak should have sealed the game in the final minute when he was faced with an easy opportunity, but his shot rolled agonisingly wide of the post.

Carlton coach Eddie Krncevic said after: "We did not play well today, full credit to Melbourne Knights, it's the best I've seen them play all year, but at the end of the day we are still unbeaten and I am happy with a point.

"It's a good lesson for the boys. When you're on top, everyone else is to going to come out gunning for you and I think they realise that we were lucky to get a point.

Knights assistant-coach Alan Davidson thought his team should have won.

"We are disappointed that we did not take the three points, I don't think Carlton really hurt us that much.

"We aren't having much luck, we could have won the game, we can only blame ourselves for not winning."

Meanwhile Carlton will be without star player John Markovski this week, who received his fourth caution of the season, but Krncevic did indicate that captain Alan Hunter (who scored in the youth game) will start on the bench against Newcastle this Friday night.

IVAN KELIC

Carlton: Anastasiadis, Trajkovski (Grella 71), Stergiopoulos, Douglas, Lapsansky, Viahos (Allsopp 67), Markovski (Bacak 61), Cervinski, Atkinson.

Knights: Joe Didulica, Kovacevic, Jolic, Banini, Marth, Pondeljak, Kutlesovski, Davidson, Kelic, John Didulica (Vojtek 35), Susa.

SCORERS
CARLTON: Atkinson 55
KNIGHTS: Kelic 44
Crowd: 6,053

POY
3 Atkinson (C)
2 Douglas (C)
1 Susa (MK)

PHANTOM PENALTY KEEPS UTD UNDEFEATED

SYDNEY UNITED.....2 NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

By John Economos

Sydney United last Friday night at the Parramatta Stadium, can largely thank a 'phantom penalty' awarded by rookie Brisbane referee David Dwight in the 21st minute that turned the match their way against a gallant, youthful but luckless Newcastle Breakers.

A cross by United from the right into the box harmlessly fell into a cluster of players. United's tricky striker Abaas Saad charged into two Newcastle defenders but there was no foul or dangerous play, however, inexplicably, referee Dwight unhesitatingly pointed to the penalty spot much to the surprise of everyone.

Not looking a gift horse in the mouth, United's lanky midfield skipper Paul Bilokapic was certainly not going to argue. He calmly stepped up and fired a fierce left footed drive into the target.

This was an unsettling incident for the young Novocastrians to digest and proved ultimately to be a turning point in the match.

Seconds before fulltime, United this time, suffered the wrath of the referee when he sent off, for a second bookable offence, 69th minute subsitute Marcus Phillips.

United's sweeper Richard Plesa almost opened the scoring but his vicious piledriver from 15 metres screamed narrowly wide of the left post just four minutes prior to the penalty.

Striker Nick Bosevski doubled the scoreline for United with a most delightful piece of Soccer. Charging into the box from the left, the former Marconi Youth striker dragged the ball back with his left to turn a defender before slamming a hot drive that deflected off a Novocastrian and flew high into the target.

However, most unfortunately for Bosevski, seconds before the break he suffered a nasty head wound. A cross from the right was cleared by Newcastle's defence only as far as to the feet of right midfielder Jacob Burns. Burns blasted the rebound towards the target as Bosevski raced forward, stumbled and fell very heavily head first onto the right upright splitting the top of his skull that later required no less than 10 stitches.

John Kosmina at the break released substitute Liam McQuire into Newcastle's attack and two minutes in, he rocked the cross bar with a powerful header from sweeper Shane Pryce's cross.

McQuire, and Newcastle, again were denied joy when four minutes from the bell another McQuire header was goal-bound that forced a fully stretched Australian international goalkeeper Zeljko Kalac to make a world class save with both gloves.

Peter Ritchie and Robbie Ironside battled well in the midfield for Newcastle whilst Matthew Lowe at right back also gave a solid display.

United's powerful veteran centreback Velimir Kupresak, who again had a solid match, stated to ABSW: "Overall it was not a bad game and our defence played well I thought, with big Zeljko (Kalac) behind giving us confidence.

"The second half we copped some real pressure from Newcastle as we tended to lo se possession too easily."

David Mitchell, United's phlegmatic coach, reflected: "Of course I'm happy with the result, but was also very happy with my entire defence which kept another clean sheet. But I must admit had they scored it could have broken down our entire momentum in the second half especially."

Newcastle's coach John Kosmina, most understandably was far from happy, laconically electing to state: "You get through the bad days then the good times seem much better. We've played worse and have won matches. The second half we played much better than them, but we must get sharper inside the box as we are doing everything else O.K. We just have no bite upfront."

Velimir Kupresak (right): United's powerful central marker.

Sydney United: Kalac P.Bennett (Wilson 63), Kupresak, Plesa, Vrkic, Munro (Phillips 69), Burns, Bilokapic, Hooker, Saad, Bosevski (Krslovic 44).

Newcastle Breakers: Swancott Lowe, McManus, Pryce, Austin, Sprod (West 86), Ritchie, Ironside, Zane (McQuire 46), Lane, J.Bennett.
SCORERS:
SYDNEY UNITED:
Bilokapic 21p and Bosevski
Referee: D.Dwight.
Crowd: 3,656.
POY
3 Vrkic (SU)
2 Lowe (NB)
1 Ironside (NB)

ERICSSON CUP

Match Reports

LAKERS' BARNSTORMING FINISH

SOUTH MELBOURNE.....4 ADELAIDE SHARKS.....1

By Dwyght Tuffnell

South Melbourne broke through for their first home win of the season with a second half blitz of Adelaide Sharks on Friday night.

The Lakers, with just two points to show from their first two games at Lakeside, scored four second half goals, once again inspired by skipper Paul Trimboli.

Trimboli, drafted in to Terry Venables squad for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers, has been in sparkling form this year and brought his side to life from an ordinary first half showing.

"He's been outstanding" said coach Angie Postecoglou.

"He's scored his fourth goal in six games, which is a good rate for him, and tonight he was instrumental in a lot of our good stuff."

South will have to do without Trimboli for the next five or six weeks as he pushes for a spot in the Socceroo team to face the unknown Asian opponent.

He was involved in the best two chances of a largely forgettable first period, first setting up Vaughan Coveny who shot narrowly wide and then pouncing on a Bigu mistake to shoot just over the crossbar.

Then five minutes into the second half, he gave the home side the lead.

John Anastasiadis' cross was intelligently knocked inside by Tansel Baser to Trimboli who beat Frank Mikuletic on his left hand side.

South were 2-0 up just four minutes later with David Clarkson registering his first goal for the club.

Steve Panopoulos' through ball was picked up by Coveny who sent in a low cross to Clarkson who arrived in time to fire past Mikuletic.

Just when South were on top, bad memories of the previous two 2-2 draws came back to haunt them when the Sharks won a penalty with ten minutes to go.

Alex Castro went through the Lakers penalty area and lifted the ball over Fausto De Amicis only to have the South sweeper stop it with his arm.

Pablo Cardozo stepped up and comfortably netted his fifth goal of the season to set what looked like might be another nervous finish for the Lakers.

Those fears were assuaged just three minutes later when Panopoulos added a third, after good lead up work from Bill Damianos and Michael Curcija.

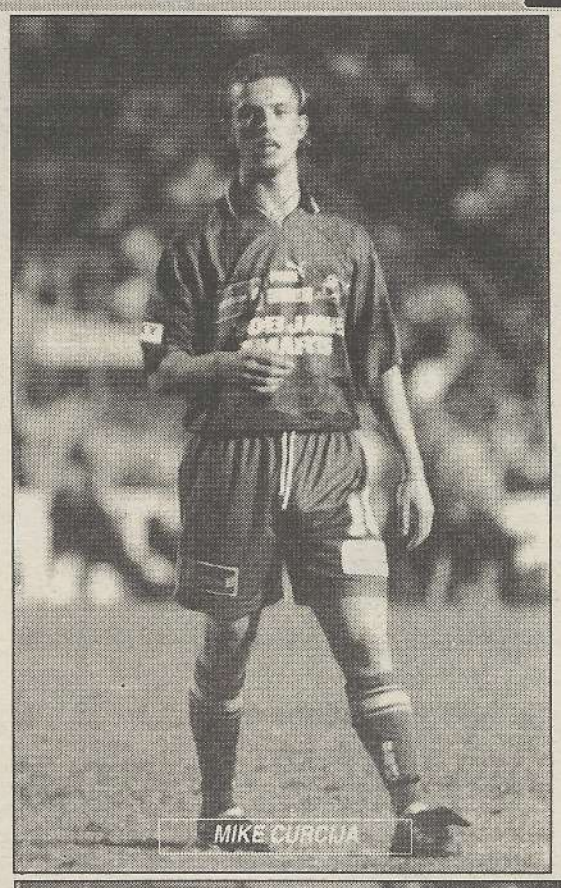
The Sharks nearly pulled a goal back when Corey Artone's blistering 25 metre strike came back off the post. Sharks goalscorer Cardozo was then guilty of mucking around with the ball on the edge of his own penalty area and was robbed by Coveny and the loose ball found its way to substitute Curcija who rounded off the scoring with a neat finish.

Postecoglou was much happier with this performance other than the first two which saw his team drop crucial home points.

"We worked hard in the first half without setting the world on fire and in the second half we reaped the rewards of that hard work by opening them up and scoring four good goals.

"The fact that we didn't panic when they pulled it back to 2-1 was good, we just kept playing and creating good opportunities.

"I think it's a good sign that we've learnt a couple of lessons from what's happened in the past."



MIKE CURCIJA

Lakers : Petkovic, De Amicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Coveny (Goutzioulis 87), Trimboli, Damianos, Baser (Boutsianis 80), Anastasiadis (Curcija 72).

Sharks : Mikuletic, Castro, Tibaldi, Kuzmanovic, Milosevic, Artone, Cardozo, Bigu, Tsekinis (Cutillo 87), Oliveira, Iandiorio (Borghetto 62).

SCORERS :
LAKERS : Trimboli (50), Clarkson (54), Panopoulos (83), Curcija (86).
SHARKS: Cardozo (80 pen)

Referee: E.Brazzale
Crowd: 4,500
POY:
3 Trimboli (SM)
2 Panopoulos (SM)
1 Clarkson (SM)

South may lose Trimboli for a period but the good news is that Goran Lozanovski and Steve Iosifidis are due back within the next couple of weeks.

AROUND THE CLUBS

SEVIN'S FUTURE NOT SO SUNNY

By Phil Murphy

A question mark hangs over the future of midfielder Sonny Sevin. The Wollongong Wolves player has been in dispute with the club and last week asked for a clearance.

He became involved in a disagreement with coach Nick Theodorakopoulos during a training session and was dropped from the starting line-up for the game against UTS Olympic at the SFS.

He has continued training with the Wolves but his contract runs out at the end of the season.

Sevin said late last week that as far as he was concerned the problem between him and the coach still existed.

The player has been one of Wollongong's best players in the first three Ericsson Cup games of the season.

Club chairman, Brian Hastings, told ABSW he was aware of the incident and thought it had settled down.

"I now discover Sonny has asked for a clearance," Hastings said.

"If he isn't happy in Wollongong there is no problem. Any player who is unhappy here and wants a transfer, will get a sympathetic hearing."

Theodorakopoulos said the former Gippsland Falcons star was no different to any other player at training.

"We had a bit of a problem but a couple of days later it seemed we had sorted it out," the coach said.

"I took disciplinary action before the game against Olympic. It was a difference of opinion and Sonny is an integral part of what I would describe as a good team. He is a very good player but I don't rely on just one player to get results."

◆ ◆ ◆

SONNY SEVIN

In other news ... the Wolves are hoping to sign former Fijian international Esala Masi. The player quit Canberra Cosmos last week and was also being sought by Melbourne Knights.

He is currently on the books of Brisbane State League club Rochedale Rovers. Masi trained with Wollongong on Friday night and talked terms with club officials.

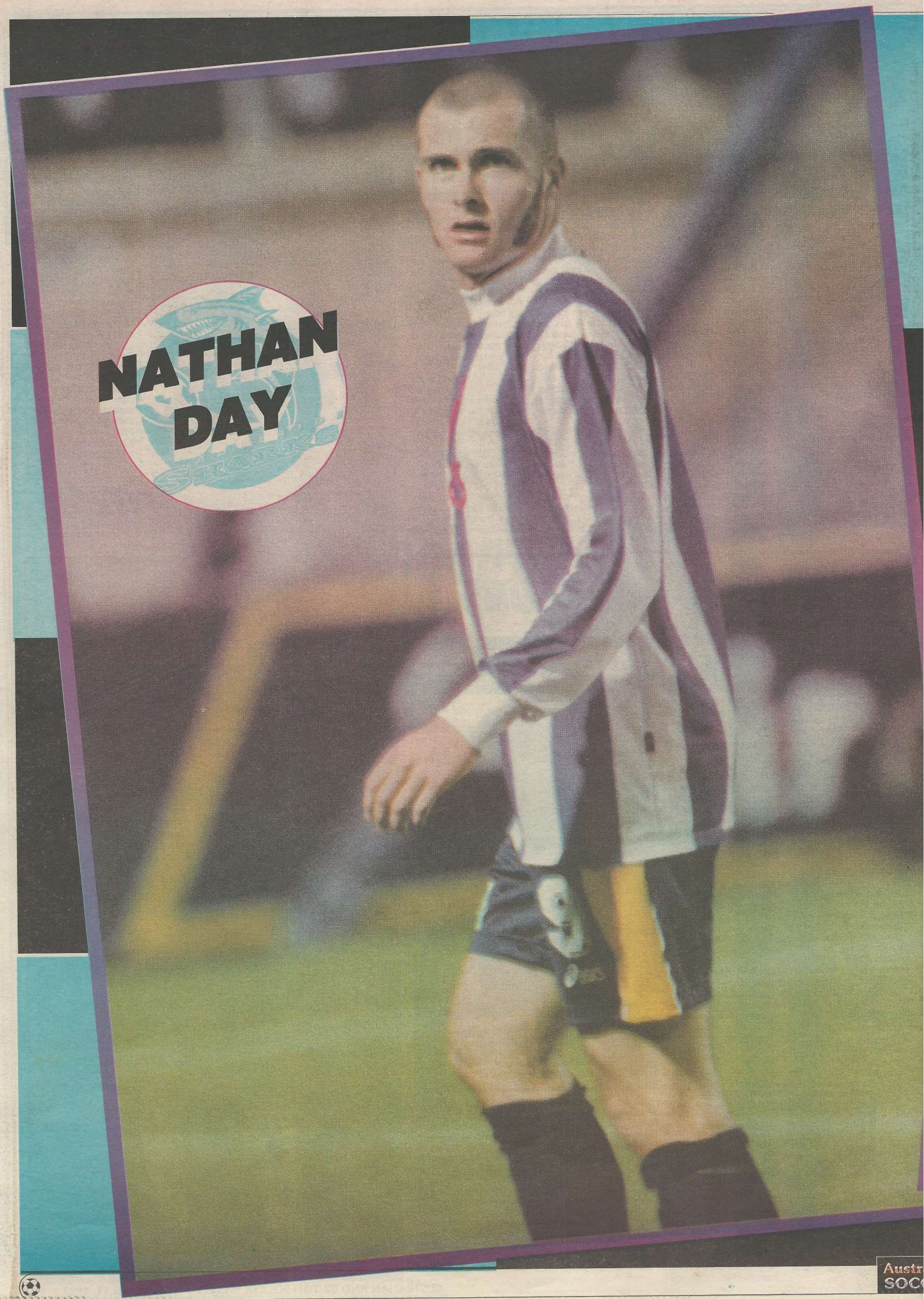
◆ ◆ ◆

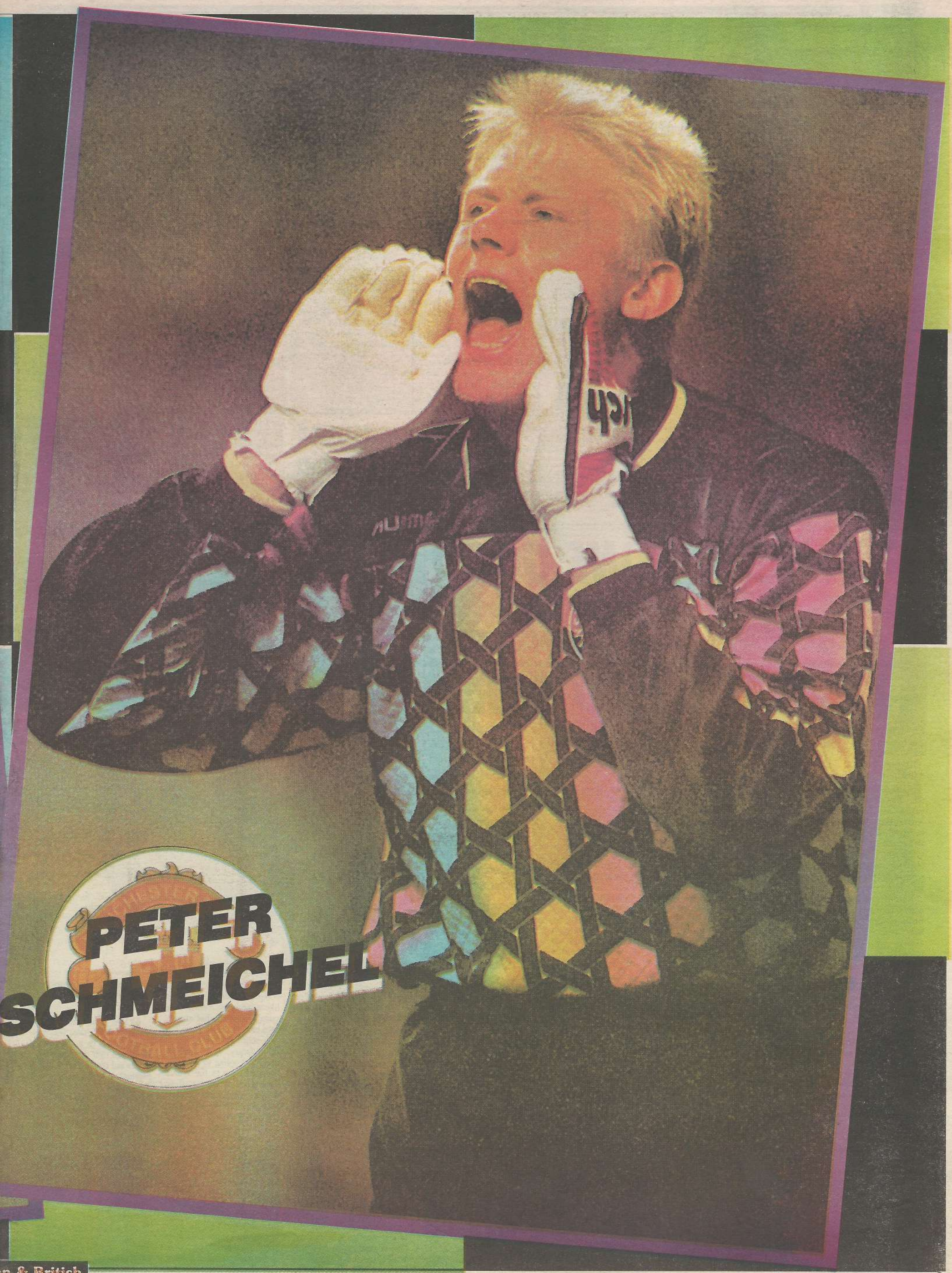
WOLVES' YOUTH international Sebastian Sinozic is expected back in Australia this week.

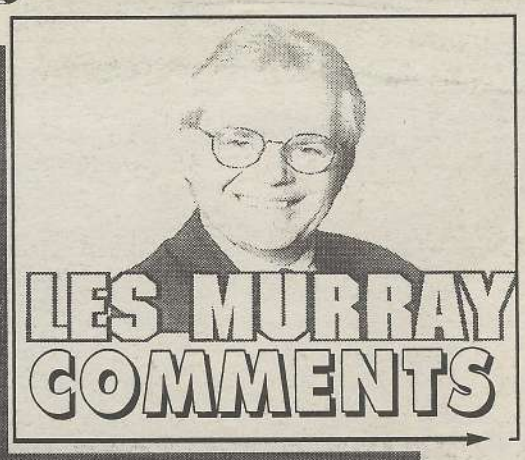
He has been trialing in Denmark and Germany. His agent will talk to Wolves officials about Sinozic's future this week.

Meantime, the former Young Socceroo is expected to return to the Wollongong squad for the away game against Adelaide Sharks on Sunday.

SEBASTIAN SINOZIC


NATHAN
DAY
SHARKS


PETER
SCHMEICHEL



We are holding our breath that Samson Siasia succeeds. We are holding our breath that the lanky Nigerian bombards opposition goals with the kind of missiles with which he stunned Maradona's Argentina in USA '94. We want him, so much, to deliver the goods for Perth Glory. We want him, more precisely, to set a trend. To trigger more of the same. To see the flamboyant gifts of African football infect and influence our country.

The Siasia signing is a manifest embodiment of the changing of the times in Australian football. Our devastating talent drain triggering the need for imports. And if we cannot afford quality imports from Europe, if we are reluctant to import rejects or has-beens from that continent, as we were not averse to in the 60s and 70s, then surely we have to turn our attention to that quarry of cheap soccer talent ... Africa.

A recent TV report from Europe has brought this reality. The report, assessing the latest trend in transfer movements between continents, suggested that the less affluent leagues of Western Europe, such as Holland, Belgium and Switzerland, have turned their attentions to Africa. Where once, in the late 80s and 90s, it was fashionable to nab players from Australia (Farina, Okon, Arnold, Van Blerk, Arambasic, Kulcsar etc), now the Australian players have priced themselves out of the market and the new vogue is to import them from Africa.

Australian clubs, having woken up to the fact their stars are actually worth more than some European clubs are willing to pay for them, will in the near future have to retreat because of new marketing forces. The $1.8 million that was demanded for the transfer of Zeljko Kalac when he first attempted an overseas venture was the turning point. The price was right for Kalac but it did little for the marketability of Australian players.

While European clubs valued Australian players for their professional qualities as reliable young men, the truth is, in terms of raw talent they suddenly became over-valued. For every Mark Viduka, whose true value when he went overseas was at least $2 million, there were dozens, maybe hundreds of Ghanaians and Nigerians of equal talent going for a song.

And so long as they keep going for a song, we can afford them too. For me, the more the merrier.

◇◆◇◆◇

SO GLASGOW Rangers have seen the light. Umpteen league championships in Scotland — all back-to-back — and not a sausage won in Europe. In fact, hardly a year when they were not eliminated in the first round. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to deduct that while their coach, Walter Smith, had the knowhow in dealing with the isolated world of Scottish league football, he simply had no answer to continental opponents and the way they play.

He simply had to go, and he will at the end of the season. Ignore all the other speculation. You can bet money, even if you are a Scotsman, that his successor will be a foreign coach. It is perhaps no coincidence that Celtic, now coached by a Dutchman, is threatening to take the league championship from Rangers, who had believed they had a permanent lease on it.

◇◆◇◆◇

I WAS sad to hear that Australian international midfielder Steve Corica had broken down with knee trouble and will be out of action for 12 months. It means that one of our most gifted players will miss the World Cup at the very prime of his football life.

But it also poses the question: What gives with all these injuries to foreign-based Australian players?

Ned Zelic with his crippling knee problems, Paul Okon the same, and a host of others who have had serious, prolonged injuries in the past such as Stan Lazaridis, Craig Moore, Mark Schwarzer, Robbie Slater, Steve Horvat, Tony Popovic and more.

The list of Aussies abroad often reads like a hospital casualty roll.

Is it something in the water at the AIS?

STEVE CORICA

STEVE HORVAT

STAN LAZARIDIS

The Lad DONE GOOD
Dave Ratcliffe — THE STORY SO FAR

For David Ratcliffe, the start of this season was like no other in the 19 years he has been in Australia: he was not involved either as a player or a coach.

Presently working in the building trade, he gave up some of his time to reflect on his career.

Ratcliffe started in his native England, playing for Bradford City. "I spent some happy times at Bradford, you always have positive memories of your first league club and I was lucky enough to play a few games in the first team (they were a third division side then). Stuart McCall was at Bradford with me in the juniors and of course he went on to play for Rangers and Scotland."

The move to Australia was a big decision to make but on the recommendation of Brian Green he came out here.

"I was young and restless, my first game was a bit of a shock in Brisbane (I signed for Brisbane City), and by halftime I was exhausted. The heat was like nothing I had experienced before, I just sat in the shower after halftime! I arrived half way through the 1978 season, we won the Cup that year, and ended third the following year, but lost in the Grand Final. 1980 was an ordinary season, but by 1981 we were third again. After a while though it was time to depart. Things did not look good, the club had spent a lot of money on a grandstand and seemed to be selling players not recruiting them."

Looking back, there have been a number of high points. "My highlights are winning the premiership a couple of times, in 1983, when there were no play-offs, and in 1988 when we won it with Wollongong. That year Trevor Francis and Allan Brazil came out to play with us. Certainly my time at St George was enjoyable, there were a lot of good players at the club, like Dez Marton and Terry Greedy. And there was always a great rivalry between us and Sydney City."

Ratcliffe had played for Australia a few times under Les Scheinflug but most games were played under Frank Arok.

The pinnacle came in the Scotland World Cup qualifier games, but for Ratcliffe those games were simultaneously a highlight and a lowlight, "a highlight in the fact that it was the biggest tie we had played, in front of 85,000 in Scotland, but it was disappointing as it was my one and only chance of going to the World Cup and we got beaten. Not winning the game in Melbourne was disappointing as I felt that night we had played as well as we did in any game. Under Arok I only missed one game up until 1986."

The end of the road for his international career came in the Czechoslovakian series after Game One.

Some claim he retired due to a dispute with Frank Arok, who was trying to transfer Ratcliffe from St George at that same time, but he would like to set the record straight on that one.

"What happened was at that time I was in a partnership, business wise, and in another four years I did not think I would be playing as well as I would need to make the team for the World Cup. I did not realise, at that time, they would allow part-time professionals, as we were, to play in the Olympics. If I had known I possibly would have stayed on and gone to Seoul in 1988.

"I was offered the captaincy by Frank because 'Kossie' (John Kosmina) and a few other senior players had retired. I was vice-captain prior to this and captain when 'Kossie' was not around (about ten internationals in all). Frank was disappointed when I said I was going to retire and only then did we have a few words. It was not the initial reason I was leaving, it was the fact that I was not continuing playing for the next four years. Arok had this thing at that stage where he thought we were all jumping ship, leaving him without players and all I was thinking about was if I am not going to be around in four years what is the point of being here?"

The Socceroo defender's NSL career was to continue at Sydney Olympic, where he was plagued by injury, including one seven week spell where he was actually playing with a broken ankle (not picked up by the x-ray)!

> *" However I do not think that a full-time professional league will ever happen in this country. We are losing our players overseas, and we always will ..."*

"I only played 18 games for Olympic and left them for Wollongong. That first season at Wollongong City I played with Trevor Francis in a couple of games, Allan Brazil and Paul Mariner also guested.

"Then I had a season at St George when we finished second, so Frank Arok and I did not end on bad terms. The Wollongong job became available in the last season of winter soccer, and as I was still playing, I asked for a player/coach position, which I got.

"I had a good time at Wollongong, my departure from them was not acrimonious. I continue to watch their home games and Brian Hastings is still a good friend. I think they are a great club."

His first season at UTS Olympic as their coach (95/96) resulted in a change of fortunes.

" I needed a break from Wollongong, and I decided on Olympic. The first year was great, we had top crowds at Leichhardt Oval and we only missed top spot by one point. I have nothing but good memories of that first year. The next year (96/97) the board changed and I do not really know if they wanted me, but obviously I had a contract. They said they wanted to build a team and bring younger players into the club, and that is what I did.

"I brought in Gonzalez, Bove, Zelic (Ivan) and Emerton. Saying that you cannot develop a team overnight and I think that is what they wanted to happen."

When he sees the likes of former Australian teammates Postecoglou, Farina, Mitchell, Krncevic, and Kosmina in charge of NSL clubs, does he yearn for involvement again?

"I am pleased they are doing well. For so long it was like a merry-go-round of the same people who had already been involved in the game."

If soccer is to progress in this country, what would it need? According to Ratcliffe, "we must get to the World Cup, that is the big key. If we do the commercial channels will take on Australian Soccer, and so you would get bigger and better sponsors.

" However I do not think that a full-time professional league will ever happen in this country. We are losing our players overseas, and we always will.

They can make their living overseas in ten years and probably not have to work again; you cannot hold them back. The pay-off, of course, is the stronger national team. This situation is not solely an Australian phenomenon however, it happens in Sweden and Denmark for example."

As long as he is happy and healthy Ratcliffe does not care where he will be in ten years. He played over three hundred games and coached nearly two hundred so he has nothing to prove. His name will surely appear again on the coaching roster but for now he can enjoy his break.

Perhaps the worst thing about soccer in this country is that former players' knowledge is not used, either by the media or more importantly by Soccer Australia.

Perhaps if the authorities had soccer stars from the past in administration instead of 'media stars', the path of football in this country would be more clearly laid out.

WOMEN'S WRITES

BY JANENE MAR

AUSSIES TAKE ON CHINESE

The 1997 year comes to a head with the staging of the Tri Nations Series here on Aussie soil, commencing this Sunday.

The Aussie Matildas face their toughest challenge first up, an encounter with Atlanta Silver medallists, China.

In the lead-up to the game, coach Greg Brown has had his squad in Coffs Harbour for an intensive training schedule that will feature a game between Australia Green and Australia Gold tomorrow (Wed 12 November) at the Coffs Harbour International Stadium, with a 7pm kick-off. Also there will be special promotions in local schools featuring the Aussie girls.

On Thursday morning the team will move to Lismore for their final preparations for the big game against the Chinese.

At this stage, Julie Murray is doubtful with injury problems, however, Kristy Moore will travel as part of the team squad to Lismore.

Meanwhile the Chinese are here as part of their preparations for the Asian Games that are being played in their country, so they won't be here on holiday!

Given that Australia really pushed the Chinese in their last two encounters, this should be a cracking match and hopefully a first-up victory for the Australians.

MCG: MATILDAS HONOURED

Soccer Australia's Honours Committee, of which AWSA Board Member Maria Berry is a member, have taken the initiative to include Women's Soccer in the program.

Complimentary tickets will be provided to all former and present players of the National team, both male and female, for the 'do-or-die' World Cup qualifier at the on November 29.

Players will be treated to a pre-match function and reserved seating for the game will be provided. Interested players should contact their State Associations to lodge their interest for what may well be history in the making.

Sonia Gegenhuber: One of the Matildas set to star against China.

TRI-NATIONS SERIES FIXTURES

Sunday 16 November:
Australia v China at Oakes Oval in Lismore: 4pm

Wednesday 19 November:
Australia v New Zealand at Topper Stadium in Newcastle: 7pm

Friday 21 November:
China v New Zealand at West Belconnen RLC, Canberra: 7pm

Sunday 23 November:
FINAL at MANUKA OVAL: 7pm

Ansett Summer Series ...

WILSON AND BEATTIE STAR FOR ACT

ACT ACADEMY OF SPORT....1 NNSW.....0

ACT won the battle 1-0 over an under strength NNSW in Sunday's game at Topper Stadium in Newcastle.

A very physical encounter throughout, the match was fairly evenly matched with both teams performing solidly in a defensive context.

The deadlock was finally broken in the 50th minute when Pele and Casagrande combined to release Amy Wilson, and her brilliant strike was too good.

ACT keeper Amy Beattie capped off a fine game with a fantastic reflex save to deny Libby Marshall in the second half.

POOL B TABLE:
NSW 7
ACT 6
NNSW 4

NSWIS TOO STRONG

NSW Institute of Sport proved too strong for a disappointing ACT Academy in the Saturday game in Newcastle, winning 3-0.

After 17 minutes NSW took the lead through Ashleigh Hewson, whose drive from ten metres was too good.

Chance after chance went begging for the NSW side, but finally in the 33rd minute Heather Garriock scored after Boyd's brilliant lead-up work.

Nevertheless, ACT could have scored just before halftime, but Dior Foxhill's effort was prevented by some timely defending by NSW's classy international Anissa Tann-Darby.

The second half was a case of NSW taking their collective foot off the accelerator and the ACT side coming back into the game, but NSW finally finished off their opponent when the national team's Kelly Golebiowski latched on to a rebound off a Clarke long-range effort that gave the keeper no chance for a 3-0 scoreline, which was how the match ended.

Kelly Golebiowski

HAYES HITS WINNER IN TOPPER THRILLER

NSW Institute of Sport regained form by holding off a spirited challenge from rivals NNSW to win 3-2 in a great game in the Friday night clash at Topper Stadium.

Annisa Tann-Darby

NSW took the lead when Katrina Boyd brilliantly turned her marker but was flattened by Joanne Powell.

Anissa Tann-Darby floated the resultant free-kick over to the back post and Kaye Yardin climbed well to head home a great goal.

After the break and it was NNSW that came out firing; Starr's ball found Powell, and her powerful header from 12 metres hit the target.

Four minutes later, however, the visitors were ahead again when once again it was the ever-dangerous Kaye Yardin who exploited the defence and her header from two metres hit the net.

Yet Northern were not giving in and scored to level when McGovern's 25 metre 'special' blasted in to goal.

However, the 'sting in the tail' of the 'Topper Thriller' came courtesy of Alison Hayes who scored yet another headed goal after great lead-up work by the busy Thomson.

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Around the Globe

England

Premier League

Former England star David Platt struck a dramatic late winner to give Arsenal a stunning 3-2 victory over leaders Manchester United at Highbury.

Veteran midfielder Platt, standing in for the suspended Emmanuel Petit, crashed in a header on 83 minutes to seal all three points as the under-strength Gunners closed the gap on reigning champions United at the top of the English Premiership to just one point.

After two goalless draws and a 3-0 defeat to Derby in their last three Premiership outings, Arsenal went into the match as underdogs but they stunned the visitors by racing into a two-goal lead inside 11 minutes through Frenchmen Nicolas Anelka and Patrick Vieira.

United, though, responded with typical confidence, England striker Teddy Sheringham finding the net twice before the interval to level the scores.

Three miles across London, Chelsea shook off a lingering European hangover to beat London rivals West Ham 2-1 at Stamford Bridge.

The West London club, who have lost all three of their previous matches immediately following their Cup Winners' Cup encounters, secured three vital points courtesy of an own goal from West Ham defender Rio Ferdinand and a late strike from Gianfranco Zola.

Blackburn Rov.	3	Everton	2
Gallacher (37) Duff (81) Sherwood (84)		Speed (7) Ferguson (55)	
Coventry City	2	Newcastle United	2
Dublin (4, 82)		Barnes (31) Lee (87)	
Crystal Palace	1	Aston Villa	1
Shipperley (42)		Joachim (86)	
Leeds United	4	Derby County	3
Wallace (37) Kewell (40) Hasselbaink (82p) Bowyer (90)		Sturridge (4, 11) Asanovic (33p)	
Liverpool	4	Tottenham H.	0
Mcmanaman (48) Leonhardsen (50) Redknapp (65) Owen (86)			
Sheffield Wed.	5	Bolton Wand.	0
Di Canio (20) Whittingham (26) Booth (29, 33, 44)			
Southampton	4	Barnsley	1
Le Tissier (3p) Palmer (5) Davies (35) Hirst (54)		Bosancic (37p)	
Arsenal	3	Man. United	2
Anelka (7) Viera (11) Platt (83)		Sheringham (33, 41)	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Man. United	14	8	4	2	31	10	28
Arsenal	14	7	6	1	30	15	27
Blackburn R.	14	7	6	1	26	13	27
Leeds United	14	7	2	5	20	16	23
Chelsea	12	7	1	4	27	15	22
Liverpool	13	6	4	3	25	13	22
Leicester City	13	6	4	3	19	13	22
Derby County	13	6	2	5	25	19	20
Newcastle Utd.	11	5	3	3	14	15	18
Coventry City	14	3	8	3	12	16	17
Wimbledon	13	4	4	5	15	15	16
Crystal Palace	13	4	4	5	13	15	16
West Ham Utd.	12	5	1	6	16	19	16
Southampton	14	5	1	8	17	21	16
Aston Villa	14	4	3	7	13	20	15
Tottenham H.	14	3	4	7	11	21	13
Everton	13	3	3	7	15	21	12
Bolton Wand.	13	2	6	5	10	21	12
Sheffield Wed.	14	3	3	8	23	35	12
Barnsley	14	3	1	10	11	40	10

Division 1

Birmingham C.	1	Norwich City	2
Bury	0	Portsmouth	2
Crewe Alex.	2	Oxford United	1
Middlesbrough	3	QPR	0
Reading	1	Stockport Co.	0
Stoke City	3	Wolves	0
Sunderland	1	Nottingham For.	1
Swindon Town	1	Bradford City	0
Tranmere R.	1	Port Vale	2
WBA	1	Charlton Athletic	0
Manchester C.	0	Huddersfield T.	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Swindon Town	17	10	4	3	23	18	34
Nottingham F.	16	9	4	3	25	14	31
WBA	16	9	4	3	19	12	31
Middlesbrough	15	8	4	3	27	14	28
Sheffield Utd.	13	8	4	1	21	10	28
Charlton Ath.	16	7	5	4	30	19	26
Port Vale	17	7	4	6	24	21	25
Wolves	17	7	4	6	20	19	25
Stoke City	16	7	4	5	19	17	25
Bradford City	16	6	7	3	16	15	25
Stockport Co.	17	6	5	6	25	23	23
Sunderland	16	6	5	5	21	19	23
QPR	16	6	4	6	20	26	22
Birmingham C.	17	5	7	5	18	14	22
Bury	17	4	7	6	19	25	19
Norwich City	16	5	4	7	13	23	19
Crewe Alex.	17	5	3	9	20	26	18
Reading	17	4	6	7	17	25	18
Oxford United	17	4	4	9	19	25	16
Tranmere Rov.	16	4	3	9	22	24	15
Manchester C.	16	3	5	8	19	20	14
Portsmouth	16	3	5	8	19	24	14
Ipswich Town	14	3	5	6	13	18	14
Huddersfield T.	17	2	5	10	12	30	11

Division 2

Blackpool	2	Burnley	1
Brentford	1	Bristol City	4
Bristol Rovers	2	Fulham	3
Chesterfield	1	Grimsby Town	0
Luton Town	1	Preston NE	3
Millwall	1	Carlisle United	1
Plymouth Arg.	3	Bournemouth	0
Southend Utd	1	Wigan Athletic	0
Walsall	0	Watford	0
Wrexham	1	Northampton T.	0
York City	2	Wycombe Wand.	0
Oldham At.	3	Gillingham	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Watford	17	12	3	2	30	11	39
Bristol City	17	10	3	4	27	14	33
York City	17	8	2	5	24	20	28
Millwall	16	8	4	4	23	16	28
Northampton T.	17	7	7	3	18	12	28
Oldham Ath.	17	7	6	4	29	23	27
Wrexham	16	7	4	5	24	20	25
Gillingham	17	7	4	6	23	22	25
Chesterfield	17	6	7	4	18	16	25
Blackpool	17	7	3	7	26	29	24
Fulham	17	6	5	6	18	18	23
Preston NE	17	6	4	7	17	14	22
Bournemouth	17	5	7	5	17	17	22
Bristol Rovers	17	5	6	6	22	23	21
Grimsby Town	17	5	6	6	17	17	21
Wycombe Wan.	17	5	5	7	26	29	20
Wigan Athletic	17	5	4	8	23	23	19
Plymouth Arg.	17	4	6	7	22	24	19
Southend Utd.	17	5	3	9	16	32	18
Burnley	17	3	8	6	18	21	17
Walsall	17	4	5	8	18	23	17
Luton Town	17	4	5	8	17	27	17
Carlisle United	17	4	4	9	21	30	16
Brentford	17	4	4	9	18	27	16

Division 3

Barnet	1	Doncaster Rovers	1
Brighton & HA	1	Rotherham Utd.	2
Cardiff City	1	Torquay United	1
Hull City	1	Shrewsbury T.	4
Leyton Orient	1	Chester City	0
Macclesfield T.	3	Cambridge Utd.	1
Mansfield T.	3	Scarborough	2
Notts County	1	Exeter City	1
P'borough Utd.	1	Darlington	1
Rochdale	2	Colchester Utd.	1
Scunthorpe U.	1	Hartlepool United	1
Swansea City	0	Lincoln City	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
P'borough Utd.	17	9	6	2	28	16	33
Notts County	17	9	6	2	25	16	33
Exeter City	17	8	6	3	25	18	30
Lincoln City	17	8	6	3	17	13	30
Barnet	17	8	2	5	26	21	28
Chester City	17	8	2	7	25	24	26
Macclesfield T.	17	6	8	3	22	15	26
Scunthorpe U.	16	7	5	4	21	19	26
Rotherham U.	17	6	7	4	27	24	25
Hartlepool U.	17	5	10	2	24	19	25
Scarborough	17	7	3	7	26	25	24
Colchester U.	17	6	6	5	25	24	24
Torquay U.	17	6	6	5	23	22	24
Leyton Orient	17	6	5	6	18	17	23
Shrewsbury T.	17	6	4	7	25	24	22
Mansfield Town	17	6	4	7	24	22	22
Rochdale	17	6	2	9	21	22	20
Cambridge U.	17	4	7	6	24	25	19
Cardiff City	16	3	10	3	16	17	19
Swansea City	17	5	2	10	18	26	17
Darlington	17	3	7	7	21	27	16
Hull City	17	4	3	10	22	33	15
Brighton & HA	17	2	5	10	12	26	11
Doncaster Rov.	17	0	6	11	11	40	6

Scotland

Premier League

Rangers continued their dominance over arch-enemy Celtic with a 1-0 victory at Ibrox on Saturday but Hearts still top the Scottish standings after beating Edinburgh rivals Hibernian 2-0.

Rangers, who won all four league fixtures against Celtic last season, sealed this one with a goal from a man who has been at the heart of many their nine successive league titles.

Centre half Richard Gough, who left Ibrox for a brief spell in the United States after playing a vital part in their decade of dominance, was the unlikely hero.

He was on hand to tap in a Brian Laudrup cross after half-an-hour but Rangers were never able to sit back on their lead.

Keeper Andy Goram several times came to the rescue, although the home side also had chances, notably when Gough headed against a post.

Celtic, who had won their previous eight league games, ended the match reduced to 10 men when Frenchman Stephane Mahe was sent off for his second bookable offence - a foul on Laudrup.

It was the first league game of the season in which Rangers' Italian striker Marco Negri failed to score but the champions will not mind in the slightest.

The Edinburgh derby might not have the tradition of the Glasgow showdown but it is still a tough game to win.

Veteran striker John Robertson put Hearts ahead in the 18th minute and they had the best of things from then on. The second came in the dying minutes from Angolan substitute Jose Quitongo.

Hearts still top the standings with 27 points, with Rangers now second on 26 and Celtic third on 24. The two Glasgow clubs have a game in hand.

In the day's other games Dunfermline won 2-0 at St Johnstone while Kilmarnock won 1-0 at bottom club Motherwell.

Hearts	2	Hibernian	0
Robertson (17) Quitongo (88)			
Motherwell	0	Kilmarnock	1
		Roberts 67p)	
Rangers	1	Celtic	0
Gough (29)			
St. Johnstone	0	Dunfermline	2
		Smith (8) Bingham (82)	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hearts	12	9	0	3	28	13	27
Rangers	11	8	2	1	35	13	26
Celtic	11	8	0	3	21	9	24
St Johnstone	12	4	3	5	12	17	15
Dunfermline	12	4	3	5	17	28	15
Kilmarnock	12	4	2	6	9	23	14
Dundee United	11	3	4	4	19	19	13
Hibernian	12	3	3	6	19	20	12
Aberdeen	11	2	3	6	12	21	9
Motherwell	12	2	2	8	16	25	8

Division 1

Ayr United	1	Hamilton	2
Falkirk	3	Stirling Albion	2
Greenock Mor.	3	St Mirren	0
Partick Thistle	1	Airdrie	2
Raith Rovers	0	Dundee	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hamilton	12	8	3	1	22	10	27
Dundee	12	8	3	1	18	7	27
Falkirk	11	6	2	3	20	21	20
Raith Rovers	12	5	3	4	15	11	18
Airdrie	12	4	6	2	12	10	18
Ayr United	11	3	3	5	13	14	12
St Mirren	12	3	3	6	11	18	12
Greenock Mor.	12	3	2	7	13	17	11
Partick Thistle	12	1	5	6	14	22	8
Stirling Albion	12	1	4	7	14	12	7

Division 2

Brechin City	2	Stranraer	2
Clyde	3	East Fife	0
Clydebank	1	Forfar Athletic	1
Inverness This.	4	Stenhousemuir	1
Queen o' South	1	Livingston	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Livingston	12	6,	4	2	18	12	22
Clydebank	12	5	6	1	17	7	21
Forfar Athletic	12	5	2	5	21	22	17
Stranraer	12	4	5	3	20	15	17
East Fife	12	5	2	5	16	21	17
Queen o' South	12	5	1	6	19	22	16
Clyde	12	4	4	4	17	16	16
Stenhousemuir	12	4	2	6	16	23	14
Inverness This.	12	2	5	5	19	17	11
Brechin City	12	2	5	5	14	22	11

Division 3

Albion Rovers	2	Ross County	0
Alloa Athletic	1	Dumbarton	2
Arbroath	4	Berwick Rangers	1
Cowdenbeath	3	Montrose	1
Queen's Park	0	East Stirling	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ross County	13	8	2	3	31	19	26
Arbroath	12	8	1	3	28	14	25
Albion Rovers	12	7	2	3	24	20	23
Alloa Athletic	12	7	0	5	25	15	21
East Stirling	12	7	0	5	19	18	21
Queen's Park	13	5	4	4	16	14	19
Berwick Rang's	12	4	2	6	19	23	14
Dumbarton	12	2	4	6	17	24	10
Montrose	12	2	3	7	17	29	9
Cowdenbeath	12	2	0	10	6	26	6

France

Olympique Marseille upset Paris St Germain 2-1 away on Sunday to join them and Metz in a three-way-tie at the top of the French first division.

Captain Laurent Blanc scored the winner from a 64th-minute penalty after Italian striker Fabrizio Ravanelli was brought down, a decision hotly contested by the home side.

Xavier Gravelaine put Marseille in front in the 14th minute and substitute Jerome Leroy equalized in the 35th.

The three leading sides all have 30 points with PSG top on goal difference. Metz, second, beat En Avant Guingamp 2-1 on Saturday.

Earlier, France under-21 striker David Trezeguet scored twice, including an 83rd-minute winner, as Monaco beat Nantes 3-2 at home to climb to fifth, four points behind the leaders.

Xavier Gravelaine put Marseille in front in the I4th minute and substitute Jerome Leroy equalized in the 35th.

Bordeaux	0	Lyon	0
Metz	2	Guingamp	1
Cannes	1	Montpellier	0
Bastia	2	Strasbourg	0
Auxerre	0	Le Havre	0
Chateauroux	2	Toulouse	1
Rennes	2	Lens	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
PSG	14	9	3	2	28	11	30
Metz	15	9	3	3	23	13	30
Bordeaux	15	8	5	2	22	16	29
Marseille	14	8	3	3	19	10	27
Lens	15	7	4	4	19	15	25
Auxerre	15	7	2	6	25	19	23
Monaco	14	7	2	5	20	14	23
Bastia	15	6	4	5	19	14	22
Montpellier	15	5	5	5	15	15	20
Lyon	15	6	2	7	17	18	20
Toulouse	15	5	5	5	14	18	20
Nantes	14	4	4	6	13	14	16
Guingamp	15	4	3	8	16	22	15
Chateauroux	15	4	3	8	15	25	15
Strasboug	15	3	5	7	14	22	14
Le Havre	15	2	7	6	15	20	13
Rennes	15	3	4	8	16	28	13
Cannes	15	3	2	10	13	29	11

Germany

Champions Bayern Munich kept the pressure on suprise leaders Kaiserslautern but failed to impress as they clinched a narrow 1-0 win at home to lowly Arminia Bielefeld.

Bayern showed very little apart from a close range effort by Brazilian Giovane Elber from a fine pass by midfielder

Around the Globe

Mehmet Scholl for the only goal of the match in the 24th minute but have extended their unbeaten run to 13 matches.

UEFA Cup winners Schalke 04 needed two late goals from defender Thomas Linke and midfielder Michael Bueskens to tame Karlsruhe SC and stay third.

Bayer Leverkus confirmed their recovery after a worrying season's start by winning 1-0 at Hamburg SV. Danish midfielder Jan Heintze scored in the 56th minute to allow last season's runners-up to move two places into fourth.

European champions Borussia Dortmund, hoping for more domestic success after a bad start could only manage a 1-1 draw at Borussia Moenchengladbach.

Midfielder Stephan Passlack put the home team in front in the fourth minute but Scottish striker Scott Booth levelled for the visitors 13 minutes later.

Shalke 04	2	Karlsruhe	0
Cologne	2	Werder Bremen	0
Hertha Berlin	2	1860 Munich	0
Bayern Munich	1	Arminia Bielefeld	0
Hamburg	0	Bayer Leverkusen	1
Bor. Moe'bach	1	Bor. Dortmund	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Kaiserslautern	14	10	3	1	31	17	33
Bayern Munich	14	8	5	1	30	15	29
Shalke 04	14	7	4	3	16	12	25
Bayer Leverk.	14	6	4	4	24	18	22
Hansa Rostock	14	6	3	5	24	19	21
MSV Duisberg	14	6	2	6	17	18	20
VFB Stuttgart	13	5	4	4	26	18	19
Hamburg SV	14	5	4	5	21	20	19
Bor. Moen'bach	14	4	6	4	26	25	18
VFL Wolfsburg	14	5	2	7	17	22	17
1860 Munich	13	4	4	5	18	24	16
Cologne	14	5	1	8	21	28	16
Bor. Dortmund	14	3	6	5	21	20	15
Arminia Biele.	14	5	0	9	16	21	15
Karlsruhe	13	4	3	6	21	28	15
Hertha Berlin	14	4	3	7	15	23	15
Werder Bremen	14	4	3	7	14	22	15
VFL Bochum	13	3	3	7	18	26	12

Belgium

Charleroi	2	Club Brugge	2
Standard Leige	0	Harelbeke	1
Mouscron	0	Westerlo	2
Lokeren	0	St Trond	2
Anderlecht	3	Aalst	1
Lierse	2	Antwerp	1
Genk	3	Beveren	0
Ghent	3	Molenbeek	4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Club Brugge	9	8	1	0	26	6	25
Lommel	10	7	1	2	23	14	22
Genk	11	6	2	3	27	17	20
Harelbeke	11	5	5	1	17	9	20
Ekeren	10	6	1	3	20	14	19
Lierse	10	4	3	3	19	14	15
Westerlo	10	4	3	3	22	23	15
Lokeren	11	5	0	6	19	26	15
Ghent	11	3	5	3	21	18	14
Anderlecht	10	4	1	5	14	14	13
Saint Trond	10	3	3	4	9	15	12
Charleroi	10	3	4	4	13	22	12
Molenbeek	10	3	2	5	14	21	11
Mouscron	10	2	3	5	8	12	9
Standard Leige	10	2	3	5	9	13	9
Aalst	11	2	3	6	17	22	9
Beveren	10	1	4	5	9	17	7
Antwerp	8	1	1	6	8	18	4

Wales

Aberystwyth	2	Cam. Ynys Mon	5
Barry Town	2	Connah's Quay	1
Caenarfon Town	1	Newtown	5
Conwy	1	ICT Cardiff	2
Cwmbran	2	Rhyl	0
Ebbw Vale	2	Bangor City	3
Flint Town	0	Rayader Town	2
Llansantffraid	2	Haverford West	2
Welshpool	0	Caersws	3

Poland

Wisla Krakow	0	Stomil Olsztyn	0
Ruch Chorzow	1	Polonia Warsaw	1
KSZ0 Ostrowiec	0	Legia Warsaw	1
Lech Poznan	0	Katowice	1
Gornick Zabrze	1	Petrochemia Plock	1
LKS Lodz	2	Widzew Lodz	3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Widzew Lodz	15	10	2	3	30	12	32
Legia Warsaw	15	8	6	1	27	13	30
LKS Lodz	15	8	4	3	23	12	28
Polonia Warsaw	15	6	5	4	20	14	23
Ruch Chorzow	15	5	7	3	22	15	22
Odra Wodzislaw	14	7	1	6	19	20	22
GKS Kawotice	15	5	6	4	18	13	21
Amica Wronki	14	6	2	6	17	13	20
Wisla Krakow	15	5	5	5	13	18	20
Stomil Olsztyn	15	5	4	6	16	20	19
Petro Plock	15	5	4	6	14	22	19
Pogon Szczecin	14	4	6	4	17	20	18
Lech Poznan	15	5	3	7	18	18	18
Groclin Grod.	14	5	3	6	11	13	18
Gornik Zabrze	15	4	6	5	17	24	18
Zaglebie Lubin	14	5	2	7	18	21	17
KSZ0 Ostrow.	15	2	3	10	9	20	9
R. Czestoch.	14	1	3	10	9	30	6

Russia

Spartak Moscow beat second-placed Rotor Volgograd 2-0 away to retain the Russian Premier League title in a dramatic finale to the season.

Spartak needed only a draw to claim their fifth title in the six years since the start of the post-Soviet Russian league but won with two second half goals.

Rostselmash R.	0	Baltika Kalin.	0
Lokomotiv M.	2	Krylya SS	1
Lokomotiv NN	2	Z. St Petersburg	2
Fakel Voronezh	1	CSKA Moscow	1
Dynamo Mos.	6	KamAZ NC	1
Alania Vlad.	1	Chernomorets N.	3
Rotor Vol.	0	Spartak Moscow	2
Zhe'hina Sochi	4	Torpedo Moscow	3
Tyumen	1	Shinnik Yaroslavl	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Spartak Mos.	34	22	7	5	67	30	73
Rotor Volg.	34	20	8	6	54	27	68
Dynamo Mos.	34	19	11	4	50	20	68
Shinnik Yar.l	34	15	10	9	37	35	55
Lokomotiv M.	34	15	9	10	47	37	54
Ch'rets N.	34	13	14	7	40	26	53
Krylya SS	34	14	7	13	32	30	49
Zenit St P'burg	34	13	10	11	28	29	49
Baltika Kal.	34	11	16	7	38	33	49
Alania Vlad.	34	14	4	16	52	42	46
Torpedo Mos.	23	13	6	15	50	46	45
CSKA Moscow	34	11	9	14	31	42	42
Rostselmash R.	34	9	14	11	34	38	41
Zh'zhina Sochi	34	11	7	16	38	51	40
Tyumen	34	9	7	18	28	46	34
Fakel Voronezh	34	7	5	22	25	49	26
Lokomotiv NN	34	6	5	23	26	59	23
Kamaz NC	34	3	8	23	38	75	21

Italy

Nigerian Taribo West struck a last minute winner for the 10-man league leaders Inter Milan to gain a 2-1 win at Atalanta.

Juventus stayed second after securing the points at Napoli- also with a late winner.

Uruguayan substitute Daniel Fonseca came to Juve's rescue in the 87th minute after Claudio Bellucci had cancelled out Zinedine Zidane's first-half opener.

AC Milan beat Brescia 2-1 at the San Siro for their first home win of the season, easing the pressure on coach Capello.

Atalanta	1	Inter Mila	2
Bari	1	AS Roma	3
Fiorentina	5	Lecce	0
Lazio	3	Sampdoria	0
AC Milan	2	Brescia	1
Parma	2	Empoli	0
Udinese	2	Piacenza	0
Vicenza	3	Bologna	2

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MEDITERRANEAN MURMERS

BY ANDREW AKRATOS

This week was a sad time for Greek clubs in Europe with OFI and PAOK ending their run, Olympiakos almost eliminated and only AEK left to fly the blue and white flag abroad. All four teams played proudly and their results were more than credible. The best of luck to AEK for its next test and commiserations to the others.

With the most to prove after their thrashing in Madrid, Olympiakos forced Real Madrid to give up their first points in the Champions' League in a fiercely contested goalless draw in Pireus.

Arguably, Real were the better of the two sides throughout and had two good chances in the 44th and 72nd minutes when goalkeeper Kyriakos Tohouroglou stopped a Christian Panucci header and a close-range shot from Brazilian Raul respectively.

However, Olympiakos can equally argue they were denied natural justice by German referee Hellmut Krug, who turned down two good penalty appeals in the 5th and 72nd minute.

Even more impressive were the feats of PAOK in the UEFA Cup, who came very close to winning against Atletico Madrid. Atletico, 3-1 ahead early in the second half, needed a goal in injury time by Kiko to scramble a draw .

The Spanish side got off to a flying start, Jordi Lardin sliding Juninho's cross home in the second minute but PAOK were level in the 17th minute when Costas Frangeskos scored from a free-kick.

Atletico regained the lead in the 28th minute through substitute Rade Bogdanovic and by the time defender Santi Denia made it 3-1 in the 51st, converting another fine pass by Juninho, it appeared the Greek club were on their way to as big a drubbing as they received in the first leg.

But PAOK refused to buckle. Brazilian Persi Oliveiras scored their second in the 55th minute, Theodore Zagorakis equalised from the penalty spot after 76 minutes and substitute Paris Zouboulis put them ahead in the 81st minute.

OFI were bitterly disappointed in just failing to overturn a first leg 3-1 deficit against Auger as they ran out 3-2 winners, but once again were the recipients of some dubious refereeing. So close yet so far.

AEK Athens cruised into the last eight of the Cup Winners Cup despite losing 1-0 to a late Joe Spiteri goal away to Sturm Graz.

'The Double Headed Eagles' controlled most of the game, but poor finishing allowed the Austrian team to stay in the game, and ultimately, steal it. The Austrians were forced into a largely defensive game as the threatening runs of Nikolaidis and Demis promised much but in the end, delivered little. Koppitsis and Kallitsakis were in fine form but wasteful finishing put a cap on a slightly disappointing night that saw substitute, Chris Maledenis, last three minutes before withdrawing injured and Kallitsakis earning his second yellow card of the tournament. All in all, a satisfying result and onto the next round.

◆ ◆ ◆

OVER THE years there have been many great club rivalries ... the 'Old Firm' clashes of Rangers and Celtic in Scotland, the 'Scouser' derbies of Liverpool and Everton in England, the latin intensity of Real v 'Barca' and, of course many, many, more ... but surely the most intense, most antagonistic, most driven of all rivalries must be that between Olympiakos and Panathinaikos.

During the week, Real Madrid arrived in Athens for their European Champions' League game. They were the beneficiaries of a heroes' welcome ... by expatriate Spaniards you would think, but no - Panathinaikos fans decked out in Real colours mobbed the team and especially the celebrated Davor Sukor as they arrived at the airport, complete with music, chants, flowers and screaming anti-Olympiakos and pro-'Barca' slogans.

So, despite the national pride felt by Greece with the success enjoyed by AEK, Olympiakos, OFI and PAOK in Europe, twenty mongrel Panathinaikos supporters could not see past misplaced club loyalties...

◆ ◆ ◆

JUST IN passing, there is now an AEK supporters club in Sydney, and they are organising functions like it is going out of fashion.

Their next soiree is a harbour cruise on 30 November (4-8pm). For more details, feel free to call our offices on (02) 9562 0500.

◆ ◆ ◆

COMINGS AND goings at Iraklis... Albanian defender Arian Joumbre, who has been on the outer with coach George Parashos, has been recalled to the side not because they have reconciled their differences, rather because of injuries to five first (and second) choices in the team's defence that have made it a necessity.

One player definitely leaving the club is recent signing Hans Stromberg, whose contract is being terminated after collecting his third injury since the start of the season. His injuries (real or imagined) have seriously curtailed his use to the team and so...

◆ ◆ ◆

A FEW weeks ago we reported that AEK were allegedly interested in signing a few new players to bolster their squad. Well if the rumour mill is to believed the players are none other than Glasgow Rangers' hard man Richard Gough and mercurial Michael Laudrup.

Although both players are in their 30s, the wizardry of Laudrup is undoubtedly still very much evident and Gough's recent winner against Celtic in the Old Firm derby underlies his importance to the team.

Will they move from the misty hills and lochs of bonny Scotland to the sun-drenched Aegean? Only time will tell but at least Laudrup is a proven wanderer... and, more importantly, both clubs are part of the ENIC Group of soccer clubs.

◆ ◆ ◆

IT'S BEEN a month or so since Jarzhino took over Kalamata and at last the risky move to lure him to Southern Greece is starting to pay dividends. After a draw or two, Kalamata has achieved their first victory, a 1-0 result over Veria.

Despite the jubilation sweeping through the club, coach Jarzhino was far from happy and insists the team has a long, hard road ahead of it if relegation is to be avoided.

Over recent weeks he has questioned his team's fitness levels and recently introduced a new program aimed at increasing player stamina, recovery levels and overall fitness. In the face of victory it is hard to argue against its impact, but fitness alone will not be enough. With five first team regulars missing, including long-term casualties Gorgeas and Sakellaropoulos, and a very poor disciplinary record, it seems Jarzihno's next battle is a mental one as he tries to teach his charges how to deal with disappointment and frustration...

◆ ◆ ◆

WELCOME ONCE again to Trohanas world. Since the last episode, the maverick hero (entrepreneur Michael Trohanas) has decided, it seems, to don on a shining suit of armour and bail out beleaguered Aris with a huge influx of cash.

In association with former Aris Basketball supremo, Zafiris Samoladas, Trohanas has tabled a proposal aimed at acquiring him a 51% stake in the club. Its obvious solution to Aris' financial woes is self evident, but with many key personnel retaining their positions, including President Lakis Ioannidis and Vice President George Tsarouhas, the proposal might be too good to turn down...

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Italian Affair

By Joe Russo

Saturday's game at the San Paolo Stadium in Naples between Italy and Russia will undoubtedly be the Azzuri's most important game since the Final of the 1994 World Cup in Los Angeles.

The 1-1 result in Moscow seems to be favourable considering the away-goal rule, however, the unpredictability of football combined with the fact that Russia cannot ever be underestimated will make for a fascinating showdown.

Conditions in Naples will be vastly different to Moscow, so it will be interesting to see if Cesare Maldini will start with the same line-up. If the old adage that 'horses for courses' applies then the answer is probably not.

Goalkeeper Angelo Peruzzi will probably return after injury, despite an excellent performance in Moscow by 19 year old debutant Gianlugi Buffon, and it will be interesting to see if Gianfranco Zola gets a recall.

The Chelsea star is no stranger to the San Paolo, having played there for Napoli (when he was hailed as the 'New Maradona'). Can Italy afford the luxury of playing Zola in such a crucial game? Only Cesare Maldini can answer that one!

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

AS NAPOLI struggle at the bottom of the Serie A, new coach Carlo Mazzone must wonder what he has got himself into? He took charge a couple of weeks ago when Bortolo Mutti was sacked.

The problem at the club seem to be with off-season purchases. A lot of money was spent on players who are not performing. The blame, therefore, rests with club president Corrado Ferlaino, who preferred to buy from overseas when local Italian talent was available.

When one looks at the goalscoring phenomenon that is Marco Negri at Glasgow Rangers, it makes you wonder why a club like Napoli wasn't interested in someone like him.

One of the club's recent purchases has been Giuseppe Giannini, the former international in the days of coach Azeglio Vicini. Giannini did not play for Italy again once Arrigo Sacchi took over the national team in 1991.

The former Roma player has just spent the last season and a half in Austria, where, according to reports, his performances have been ordinary to say the least. He is now 33 and it makes you wonder what he can offer to the club at this stage of his career.

The obvious answer is experience. He has only played for Roma in the Serie A, making his debut as a 17 year old in 1981 before becoming a regular in the starting line-up in 1984 and later becoming club captain.

He spent 14 seasons there, often turning down bigger offers to move because he was born and bred in Rome. He also made 47 appearances for Italy, scoring six goals. Fans of Napoli will be hoping that Giannini can turn back the clock and bring some of his former magic which he showcased to the world in Italia 90.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

CHRISTIAN VIERI is arguably Italy's leading striker these days. Many people already know there is a link between Vieri and Australia. Former test cricket captain Allan Border is one of his sporting heroes! ABSW thought it we good to fill you in on the other missing bits and pieces of the Vieri story.

Born in Bologna in 1973, he came to Australia with his dad Roberto in 1978. Roberto, of course, was a former Serie A player who ended his career at Marconi and after that he coached the club in 1987.

Young Christian grew up playing soccer (Marconi juniors) and cricket (hence the Allan Border connection).

As a teenager, however, he had stars in his eyes and took himself over to third division Prato in 1990. A year later he joined Serie A outfit Torino, making six appearances and scoring one goal in 1991/92.

For the next three years he did the rounds at Serie B clubs Pisa, Ravenna and Venezia. In 1995/96 he joined Serie A side Atalanta, only to be bought by Juventus a year later and then sold on for a staggering amount to Atletico Madrid this year.

In 1997 he made his debut for Italy and, as the say, the rest may well be history. Oh, and he did score Italy's 1000th international goal a few months back to top it all off.

One can only imagine what an asset he would have been to the Socceroos had he stayed in Australia.

Today the Vieri story might read 'Star for the Azzurri', but with a different twist of fate, it may have well been 'El Tel names Vieri in squad'.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

MIXED RESULTS for the Italian teams in last week's European Cup games. In the Champions' League, Juventus just beat Kosice (Slovenia) 3-2, while Borussia Dortmund downed Parma 2-0. An excellent result for Borussia, coached these days by former Parma mentor Nevio Scala.

In the UEFA cup, Inter beat Lyon 3-1 away to go through 4-3 on aggregate but Udinese, despite beating Ajax 2-1 at home, lose out on the away-goals rule. Finally, Lazio consolidated their position by downing Rotor Volgograd (Russia) 3-0 in Rome,they now go through on aggregate.

Christian Vieri: The former Marconi junior now starring for the Azzurri.

European Update

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

ANDY COLE has come in from the cold to cast off his misfit tag with a brilliant hat trick in Manchester United's 3-1 away win over Feyenoord. The win was United's fourth on the trot and almost guarantees them a spot in the Champions' League Quarter Finals.

A battling Feyenoord held United at bay for half an hour but then the inevitable occurred as the Manchester United goal machine got into full swing. Cole chased down a Gary Neville cross from almost the halfway line, and with the 'keeper coming out, he beat the defender and calmly lobbed the ball into the back of the net. Just before half time "King" Cole smartly slotted in a low David Beckham cross from the right, after clever lead-up work by Teddy Sheringham and the third was merely the icing on the cake.

After two hat tricks, and a total of eight goals in three games, Andy Cole is starting to show the form that prompted Alex Ferguson to pay almost $15 million for him three years ago. A recall to the England team by Glenn Hoddle has made it a week the lad will hardly ever forget- and this time for all the right reasons.

Juventus had a hard time of it at home after streaking to a three goal lead against Kosice. Goals by Del Piero in the 43rd minute and substitutes Amoruso and Fonseca in the second half had Juventus looking good, but two goals by the unfancied Slovenian team made for a jittery finish.

In contrast to Cole's joy, his old club Newcastle were stumbling to an ignominious 2-0 defeat at home to PSV in a Group C match. Shorn of seven internationals through injury or suspension, Newcastle could do little to stop the Dutch team who were easy winners in the end through goals by Luc Nilis and Gilles de Bilde. This latest loss has all but ended Newcastle's hopes of progressing further in the competition.

The biggest surprise came from Spain where current league Spanish leaders Barcelona were thrashed 4-0 in front of their fans by Dinamo Kiev. For the first time in many a year the Nou Camp was silent, as disbelieving fans saw their beloved "Barca" decimated by a glorious hat trick from Russian Andriy Shevchenko.

Real Madrid, current Group D leaders, were expecting an easy time in Athens but Olympiakos proved the old Greek fighting spirit was not dead as they battled the Spanish giants to a standstill for a credible draw. Madrid are still leading the group and are almost certain to progress to the next phase.

Defending champions Borussia Dortmund are having an ordinary time in the German league these days but in Europe they are as formidable as ever as they moved to the top of Group A with a 2-0 home win over Parma, courtesy of a twin strike by Andy Moeller. Unfortunately Bayern Munich could not emulate them as they crashed 3-1 to Paris St. Germain in the crucial Group E game, though they still remain favourites to go through to the final eight.

GROUP A

Bor. Dortmund	2	Parma	0
Galatasaray	2	Sparta Praha	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
B. Dortmund	4	3	0	1	7	2	9
Parma	4	2	1	1	3	2	7
Spartak Praha	4	1	1	2	4	6	4
Galatasaray	4	1	0	3	2	6	3

GROUP B

Feyenoord	1	Man. United	3
Juventus	3	FC Kosice	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Man. United	4	4	0	0	11	4	12
Juventus	4	3	0	1	11	6	9
Feyenoord	4	1	0	3	5	10	3
FC Kosice	4	0	0	4	2	9	0

GROUP C

Barcelona	0	Dynamo Kiev	4
Newcastle U.	0	PSV	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dynamo Kiev	4	3	1	0	12	3	10
PSV Eind.	4	2	1	1	6	5	7
Newcastle	4	1	2	1	5	7	4
Barcelona	3	0	1	3	4	12	1

GROUP D

Porto	1	Rosenborg	1
Olympiakos	0	Real Madrid	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Real M	4	3	1	0	11	2	10
Rosenborg	4	2	1	1	1	1	7
Olympiakos	4	1	1	2	3	10	4
Porto	4	0	1	3	1	6	1

GROUP E

IFK Göteborg	2	Besiktas	1
Paris S. G.	3	Bayern Mün	1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Bayern Mun.	4	3	0	1	10	5	9
Besiktas	4	2	0	2	5	5	6
Paris St. Ger.	4	2	0	2	8	9	6
IFK Goten.	4	1	0	3	3	8	3

GROUP F

Lierse	0	Monaco	1
Bayer Leverk.	4	Sporting	2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Monaco	4	3	0	1	10	4	9
Bayer Lev.	4	3	0	1	7	6	9
Sport. Lisbon	4	1	1	2	6	7	4
Lierse	4	0	1	3	2	8	1

CUP WINNERS

Second Round, Second Leg

FC København	1	Real Betis	1
(Aggregate: 1-3)			
Kocaelispor	0	Lokomotiv Mos.	0
(Aggregate: 1-2)			
Roda JC	4	Primorje	0
(Aggregate: 6-0)			
Chelsea	7	Troms&slash	1
(Aggregate: 9-4)			
VfB Stuttgart	2	Germinal Ekeren	4
(Aggregate: 6 - 4)			
Vicenza	2	Shakhtar Donetsk	1
(Aggregate: 5 - 2)			
Slavia Praha	1	Nice	1
(Aggregate: 3-3; Slavia on awy goal rule)			
Sturm Graz	1	AEK Athens	0
(Aggregate: 1 - 2)			

UEFA CUP

ASTON VILLA put their poor Premiership form behind them to move into the third round of the UEFA Cup after a 2-1 victory over Atletico Bilbao at Villa Park, with midfielder Ian Taylor scoring his first European goal to give his side an interval lead before he set up Trinidad star Dwight Yorke for Villa's second five minutes into the second half. Bilbao substitute Javier Gonzalez pulled a goal back with a deflected drive after 70 minutes but to no avail.

Karlsruhe's 1-1 draw with Metz was enough to put them through with a 3-1 aggregate win.

Metz, trailing 2-0 from the first leg, went ahead in the 10th minute through Belgium's Danny Boffin, but Thomas Hassler equalised from a 36th minute free-kick with the help of a deflection off the wall.

France had mixed fortunes with Auxerre going through but Bastia and Lyon falling by the wayside, as well as Metz.

Auxerre may have lost 3-2 to OFI Crete at the Heraklion stadium, but they still managed to go into the hat for the next round after winning 3-1 in France two weeks ago. Guy Roux's team went through thanks to goals by Stephane Guivarc'h and Thomas Deniaud.

But Corsican side Bastia, who won 3-2 at home to Steaua Bucharest with two goals from Prince and one from Frederic Mendy, went out as Steaua's 1-0 win in the Romanian capital saw them through on away goals.

Lyon, who did so well to win 2-1 in Milan, fell 3-1 in their own stadium to lose 4-3 on aggregate, Francesco Moriero (2) and Benoit Cauet were on target for Milan.

In other games, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Roberto Mancini and Giuseppe Signori found the net for Lazio as they beat Rotor Volgograd 3-0 by the same aggregate score.

Croatia Zagreb thanked Robert Prosinecki for his two goals as they beat MTK Budapest 2-0 on the night and 2-1 on aggregate.

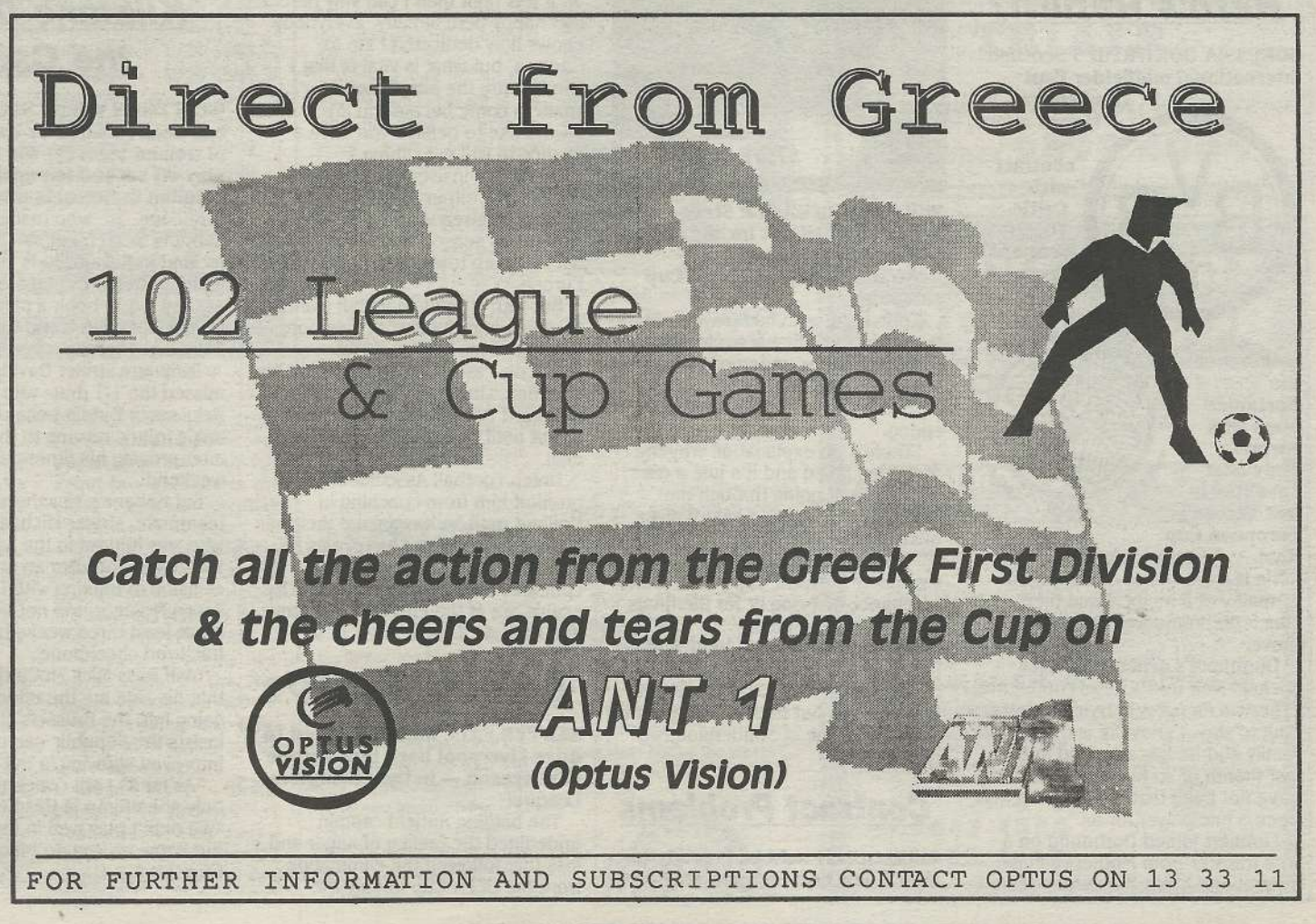
Second Round, Second Leg

Anderlecht	1	Schalke 04	2
(Aggregate 1-3)			
Aston Villa	2	Athletic Bilbao	1
(Aggregate: 2-1)			
Bastia	3	Steaua Bucharest	2
(Aggregate: 3-3; Steaua Bucharest On Away Goals)			
Cr. Zagreb	2	Mtk Budapest	0
(Aggregate: 2-1)			
Din.Tbilisi	0	Sporting Braga	1
(Aggregate: 0-5)			
Karlsruhe	1	Metz	1
(Aggregate: 3-1)			
Lazio	3	Rotor Volgograd	0
(Aggregate 3-0)			
Liverpool	2	Strasbourg	0
(Aggregate: 2-3)			
Lyon	1	Internazionale	3
(Aggregate: 3-4)			
Ofi Crete	3	Auxerre	2
(Aggregate: 4-5)			
PAOK	4	Atletico Madrid	4
(Aggregate: 6-9)			
R. Valladolid	1	Spartak Moscow	2
(Aggregate: 1-4)			
1860 Mun.	2	Rapid Vienna	1
(Aggregate: 4-2)			
Twente E.	0	AGF Aarhus	0
(Aggregate: 1-1; Twente Enschede On Away Goals)			
Udinese	2	Ajax	1
(Aggregate: 2-2; Ajax On Away Goals)			
VFL Boch.	4	Club Bruges	1
(Aggregate: 4-2)			

UEFA CUP THIRD ROUND DRAW

(First leg Nov. 25, Second leg Dec. 9)

Ajax Amsterdam v VFL Bochum
Braga v Schalke 04
Croatia Zagreb v Atletico Madrid
Karlsruhe v Spartak Moscow
Lazio of Rome v Rapid Vienna
Steaua Bucharest v Aston Villa
Strasbourg v Internazionale of Milan
Twente Enschede v Auxerre



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UK TALK

WITH MICKY BROCK

Benfica Job

GRAEME SOUNESS

GRAEME SOUNESS, newly-installed as Benfica's latest coach, pledged to bring back the glory days to the former European giant.

"We have to play winning football with style in the Benfica fashion. If we do that our supporters will be happy," the former Scotland international said after his first training session.

But he declined to make immediate forecasts for the team who are currently struggling in the middle of the table and asked when Benfica could expect to win the title, Souness said: "Ask me in a year's time and we'll have a better idea."

Commenting on the hour-long training session, watched by new club president Joao Vale e Azevedo, the former Liverpool, Rangers, Galatasaray, Southampton and Torino manager said: "The players' attitude to me was good. It was as I expected and I'm looking forward to working with them."

Vale e Azevedo chose him as his coach during his campaign for the presidency. He won the election with a promise to restore the fortunes of the club who twice won the European Cup in the 1960s and have lost in the final on five other occasions.

Hero's Return?

BORUSSIA DORTMUND'S Scottish international midfielder Paul Lambert has signed a four year contract with Celtic. The 28-year old was a member of the Dortmund team who surprisingly beat Juventus in last season's European Cup final.

He is expected to complete the formality of a medical and then clinch the 'rumoured' $3 million move.

Dortmund's general manager Michael Meir told a news conference: "There is no point in trying to force Paul to stay. I know he is missing his family and he has admitted in the last month or so his performances have not been that good. But he has been a fine player for us."

Lambert joined Dortmund on a free transfer from Motherwell last season and holds the unique record of being the only British player ever to win a European Cup winners medal playing for an overseas team.

He decided to return home because his wife could not settle in Germany and is back in Glasgow pregnant with their second child.

Lambert said: "This has been a very hard decision for me to make. But I have to think of my son and my wife, and I am thankful to Dortmund for giving me the opportunity of going home."

He was little known outside Scotland when he moved to Dortmund in August of last year and his presence at the star-studded Ruhr Valley club, who had just been crowned German champions for the second successive time, came as a surprise to many.

But he took his chance when it came, scoring on his Bundesliga debut and then taking advantage of a series of injuries in the Dortmund side to establish himself in a defensive midfield role, although stars like Portuguese midfielder Paulo Sousa recovered fitness, coach Ottmar Hitzfeld made sure Lambert stayed in the side.

He has remained a regular feature this season after Hitzfeld became the club's sports director and was replaced as coach by Italian Nevio Scala.

Unlike Dortmund, Celtic have made a strong start in the Scottish league. Tired of being in the shadow of perennial champions Rangers, they have been busy rebuilding an ambitious side since Dutch coach Wim Jansen took over the club in the close-season.

Corica Blow

STEVE CORICA

WOLVES MIDFIELDER Steve Corica has been ruled out for the rest of the domestic season and Australia's possible World Cup campaign.

Corica, 24, who has played only two minutes of first team football this season, has undergone a total reconstruction of the knee on which he had cruciate surgery during the spring.

"There's no explanation why the operation failed and it's just a case now of Steve going through the whole process again," said Wolves manager Mark McGhee.

"It is very disappointing for him, especially in World Cup year. He has no chance of being fit for the finals even if Australia qualify."

Corica, who was first injured at Port Vale in April, played two minutes as substitute at Stockport ten days ago but then broke down in a reserve game at Sunderland two days later.

Contract Problems

RUUD GULLIT said he is ready to sign a new contract and stay as Chelsea manager well into the 21st century, but only if the club lays out its plans for the next ten years.

The Dutchman is refusing to put pen to paper on a new deal to replace his current contract which runs out at the end of the season, and negotiations are continuing.

"I haven't signed yet but we are talking about it all the time," explained Gullit. "It is not anything to do with money. I am not saying to them give me $60 million and I'll do the job.

RUUD GULLIT

"Of course it has to be about what I want but more than that it is about what Chelsea want and what they expect from me. You have to have a plan, a solid structure for maybe the next ten years.

"I am not saying I am going to be here in a decade from now but it is about what I can see for the club over maybe the next three or four years.

"I have to look at what the future holds and what would be left behind for somebody else when I do leave.

"If it is right then I can stay here. I feel happy here already. Everybody knows how dedicated I am to Chelsea, but what is vital is that I can be sure the plan is solid for years to come because in life I always like to believe you have a chance to win everything."

Gullit also insists his future does not depend either on FA Cup holders Chelsea winning another trophy this season or even taking another step towards conquering Europe.

But with stumbling Italian giants AC Milan and Holland's Feyenoord, another of his former clubs, reputedly casting envious eyes in his direction, Gullit's situation at Stamford Bridge is sure to remain in doubt until he actually signs a new deal.

Dutch Football Association rules prohibit him from coaching in Holland until he has gained their full coaching badge and he reveals he intends to take the appropriate course to earn one. He added: "The exams are at the end of the season and I will do it then."

Ince for Europe

SKIPPER PAUL Ince has vowed to drive Liverpool back into Europe next season — in the Champions' League!

The battling Anfield captain underlined the feeling of anger and loss that followed the elimination from the UEFA Cup in only the second round by Racing Strasbourg, a lowly club placed at 14th in the French League.

PAUL INCE

To be dumped by such a Euro minnow as the men from Northern France has hurt the Reds, so used to nights of glorious success against far better teams than the one Jacky Dugueperoux put out to protect their 3-0 lead from the first leg.

But Ince was defiant. He said: "It's disappointing to be out of Europe, it means so much to everyone at this club. We are absolutely gutted, mainly because we didn't feel we got the run of the ball when we needed it most in the second leg.

"Everyone is determined that we will be back in Europe next season, it is too important to this club. We must make sure we are in Europe again, with a good Premiership position that puts us in the Champions' League."

The UEFA Cup was a poor second prize for Liverpool at the end of last season when for so long they had looked championship favourites. But fading out at the end didn't even ensure they finished second, allowing Newcastle to sneak in and grab the new Champions' League place for runners-up.

Roy Evans knows it, Paul Ince knows it, everyone at Liverpool knows it — the future is in their own hands now, (although yet to be confirmed, Roy Evans is likely to step down at the end of the season as Liverpool look to go the way of Arsenal and Celtic by appointing a 'foreign' coach).

Kilblane Gets the Call

WEST BROM winger Kevin Kilbane has been recalled by the Republic of Ireland team for the World Cup play-off second leg against Belgium in Brussels on Nov 15.

Kilbane, 20, who made his full debut in September's 4-2 win over Iceland in Reykjavik, is likely to figure in Ireland's plans on the night as they bid to book a place in their third successive World Cup Finals in France next year.

Tranmere striker David Kelly, who missed the 1-1 draw with the Belgians in Dublin because of an ankle injury, returns to the squad after proving his fitness at the weekend.

But Kilbane's Hawthorns teammate, striker Michael Evans, who was injured in the build-up to that first game after an accidental collision in training with Liverpool's Jason McAteer, will not be available for at least three weeks because of a fractured cheekbone.

Irish boss Mick McCarthy accepts that his side are the underdogs going into the Brussels clash but insists the Republic can put on an improved showing in the second leg.

"As far as I am concerned we are only at halftime in this tie," he said. "We didn't play well in the first leg but know we can do much better in Brussels."

BOOK REVIEW

By Stuart Jones

I Think I'll Manage

Author: George Sik

If you have ever wanted to enter that smelly room half an hour before the game, change into the team kit and go out onto the pitch at Highbury, Anfield, Old Trafford, even Brunton Park, but never had the skill, being a football manager is the only solution.

The popularity of Fantasy Football has meant football management has many myths attached to it and this book is a manager's view in real life, and it does not just encompass buying and selling players!

The book gives a diverse range of views across one season, from Dulwich Hamlet to Rangers, Wolves to Celtic and re-visits the managers throughout the year and they do not avoid the difficult issues: Walter Smith analyses why British clubs do so poorly in European competition, what it's like to be the manager of a so called 'giant' club when they lose in the FA Cup, and what about drugs in soccer?

With men like Joe Kinnear, Dave Bassett and Tommy Burns being asked the questions, the answers are very straightforward and revealing and they look at current players and say what they really think about them — Alan Smith's views on Stan Collymore for example.

The book is a bit anti Arsenal/Man Utd, which should appeal to most supporters out there — plus Mark McGhee gives a good insight into why Alex Ferguson says the things he does and explains his attitude to winning.

The best part of the book is that you can look at it with hindsight: Walter Smith is leaving Rangers at the end of the season, Dave Bassett, Tommy Burns and Alan Smith having left the clubs they were with when the book was written and the pressures they faced while there (during writing, McGhee moved from Leicester to Wolves and Bassett from Sheffield United to Crystal Palace).

The Australian element comes from former England manager Terry Venables and looks at his management style during the run-in to Euro 96 and tallies with what many of today's current Australian internationals have said about his technique.

We've all heard the stories about Bill Shankly going up to Bobby Charlton before a match at Anfield and saying "you don't look too well Bobby" in an attempt to put him off his game, but are these stories the 'exception' to the rule? It's for you to make up your own mind.

The over-riding factor is the way it encapsulates the difference between supporter and manager, fantasy and reality.

Excellent book, thoroughly recommended.

By STUART JONES

Weird & Wonderful

1940-1941

At this stage any thoughts of a 'Phoney War' had dissipated, nevertheless, on July 29, the Football League decided to continue, with any team wishing to participate to be included.

There was to be a North and South Division with no trophies or medals. Clubs could choose their opponents but each First and Second Division side had to play at least two Third division teams. It was hoped each team would play twenty games. This part, however, was not realised, with Swansea, for instance, only managing ten matches.

Points were not awarded, instead club position was contingent on goal average. Fixtures were to be played until the end of the year when the situation would be revised.

Only 68 clubs entered, although two did enter later. Charlton stopped playing in December and, in April 1941, Hull also quit. The two teams to re-enter were Blackpool and Bolton.

One funny aspect of this darkest of seasons was that referees with spectacles were allowed. Chants from the terraces of "Where are your glasses referee?!" thus went unused!

In December the rift between the London clubs and the Football League widened and the clubs, along with some near neighbours, formed their own Cup competition.

By January many Southern clubs had broken away and formed their own Southern Regional competition, however, this was not an officially recognised entity.

Crystal Palace won the Southern Division with Preston top in the North. The season had been extended to June 7 with Bury playing the most games throughout this time, 38 in all.

Because of the goal average system you will notice some very strange positions on the table.

"The Official 'War' Cup" Final was again played at Wembley, with Arsenal taking on Preston. The game ended 1-1 and the replay at Blackburn's Ewood Park finished 2-1 to Preston.

Those two games had a combined total of over 100,000 spectators, which saw the London Cup Final at Stamford Bridge pale into insignificance in comparison (a mere 9,000 watched Reading defeat Brentford 3-2). Unfortunately the problems facing the game were to continue through the off-season.

The other Cup played was organised by the League in an attempt to placate the other Southern teams who were not part of the London Cup. It was given the name 'West Regional Cup', and was promptly won by Bristol City.

In Scotland there was only one competition played, and that was in the South. Sixteen teams participating with, you guessed it, Rangers coming out on top (Clyde were runners-up).

There had been talk of resuming the League in 1940 but this was abandoned when the allied front collapsed. Rangers dominance continued although Celtic defeated them 3-2 in their New Year's Day clash.

In the Scottish League Cup Final, which they were defending, the 'Gers drew 1-1 with Hearts before winning 4-2 in the replay (Smith scoring in the final as he had done the previous season).

There was a summer Cup played and Rangers were out to win this too, however the other big Edinburgh club, Hibernian (not City) upset Rangers 3-2.

Around Europe the Champions were:

Austria	SK Rapid Wien
Belgium	None
Bulgaria	Slavia Sofia (Cup - AC 23 Sofia)
France	None
Germany	Rapid Wien (Cup - Dresdner SC)
Holland	Heracles Almelo
Italy	Bologna FC (Cup - AC Venezia)
Poland	None
Portugal	Sporting CP (Cup - Sporting CP)
Romania	Unirea Tricolor (Cup - Rapid Bucuresti)
Russia	None
Spain	Atletico Aviacion De Madrid (Cup - Valencia CF)
Sweden	Helsinborg IF (Cup - Helsinborg IF)
Switzerland	FC Lugano (Cup - Grasshopper Club

England North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Avg
Preston	29	18	4	7	81	37	2.189
Chesterfield	35	20	9	6	76	40	1.900
Man City	35	18	7	10	104	55	1.890
Barnsley	30	18	8	4	86	49	1.775
Everton	34	19	8	7	85	51	1.666
Blackpool	20	13	4	3	56	34	1.646
Halifax	30	10	7	13	64	51	1.254
Man Utd	35	14	13	8	80	65	1.249
Lincoln	27	13	7	7	65	53	1.226
Newcastle	23	12	11	0	49	41	1.195
Huddersfield	33	11	16	6	69	58	1.189
Middlesboro	27	16	10	1	84	71	1.183
New Brighton	26	15	10	1	97	82	1.182
Burnley	35	17	11	7	62	53	1.169
Leeds	30	13	9	8	62	54	1.148
Liverpool	37	15	16	6	91	82	1.102
Wrexham	29	15	9	5	78	71	1.098
Chester	35	14	15	6	94	89	1.056
Doncaster	32	15	10	7	77	74	1.040
Oldham	37	17	16	4	78	77	1.012
Grimsby	27	12	13	2	60	63	0.952
Bradford PA	31	9	15	7	64	74	0.864
Rotherham	29	12	12	5	48	57	0.842
Blackburn	32	9	13	10	49	60	0.816
Bury	38	10	19	9	80	100	0.800
Bolton	16	6	8	2	31	40	0.775
Tranmere	25	9	11	5	67	90	0.744
Sheff Utd	25	6	13	6	44	60	0.733
Bradford C	29	8	18	3	72	99	0.727
Rochdale	32	12	15	5	64	92	0.695
Southport	28	7	19	2	61	88	0.693
York	25	7	14	4	49	71	0.690
Hull	23	8	12	3	44	67	0.656
Sheff Wed	30	9	15	6	50	78	0.641
Stockport	29	9	15	5	54	93	0.580
Crewe	24	2	19	3	32	84	0.380

England South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Avg
C Palace	27	16	7	4	86	44	1.954
West Ham	25	15	6	4	70	39	1.794
Coventry	10	15	2	3	28	16	1.750
Arsenal	19	10	4	5	66	38	1.736
Cardiff	24	12	7	5	75	50	1.500
Reading	26	14	7	5	73	51	1.431
Norwich	19	9	8	2	73	55	1.327
Watford	35	15	14	6	96	73	1.315
Portsmouth	31	16	13	2	92	71	1.296
Tottenham	23	9	9	5	53	41	1.292
Millwall	31	16	10	5	73	57	1.280
Walsall	32	14	11	7	100	80	1.250
WBA	28	13	10	5	83	69	1.202
Leicester	33	17	11	5	87	73	1.191
Northampton	30	14	13	3	84	71	1.183
Bristol C	20	10	8	2	55	48	1.145
Mansfield	29	12	11	6	77	68	1.132
Charlton	19	7	8	4	37	34	1.088
Aldershot	24	14	8	2	73	68	1.073
Brentford	23	9	11	3	51	51	1.000
Chelsea	23	10	9	4	57	58	0.981
Birmingham	16	7	8	1	38	43	0.883
Fulham	30	10	13	7	62	73	0.849
Luton	35	11	17	7	82	100	0.820
Stoke	36	9	18	9	76	96	0.791
QPR	23	8	12	3	47	60	0.783
Brighton	25	8	10	7	51	75	0.680
N Forest	25	7	15	3	50	77	0.649
Bournemouth	27	9	15	3	59	92	0.641
Notts Cty	21	8	10	3	42	66	0.636
Southend	29	12	13	4	64	101	0.633
Southampton	31	4	23	4	53	111	0.477
Swansea	10	2	7	1	12	33	0.363
Clapton O.	15	1	11	3	19	66	0.287

Scotland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Rangers	30	21	5	4	79	33	46
Clyde	30	18	5	7	99	61	43
Hibernian	30	14	9	7	74	61	35
Airdrie	30	13	9	8	75	62	34
Celtic	30	14	10	6	48	40	34
Falkirk	30	13	10	7	78	73	33
St Mirren	30	12	10	8	55	57	32
Motherwell	30	13	13	4	73	65	30
Morton	30	9	10	11	67	62	29
Hearts	30	12	13	5	64	71	29
Hamilton	30	11	13	6	67	75	28
Partick T.	30	9	13	8	55	62	26
T Lanark	30	9	14	7	56	80	25
Dumbarton	30	10	16	4	58	78	24
Albion	30	6	19	5	45	80	17
Queens Park	30	6	21	3	46	79	15

SOUTH AMERICA

— Compiled by Mario Etchart —

PENAROL SET FOR FIVE-IN-A ROW?

Penarol, the oldest and most popular club in the country, will go for its fifth consecutive Uruguayan league title after a dramatic 3-2 victory over arch-rival Nacional, in the local derby, played at Montevideo's historic Centenario Stadium.

The defending champions must face Defensor Sporting in two matches to decide who the winner of the 1997 season will be.

Nacional, guided by former Uruguayan national coach Roberto Fleitas, dominated the first 45 minutes and went ahead 2-0 through Sosa and Salazar. But in the third minute of the second half, a different Penarol took control and henceforth dominated proceedings. Antonio Pacheco, Luis Romero, and midfielder Robert De Lima scored the goals that saw the Penarol boys home.

Meanwhile, Cerro and Racing, two clubs with a great tradition in Uruguayan football, were relegated to the second division. Racing, who are going through a difficult economic situation, return to Divsion Two after just one year in the top flight while Cerro go down after 51 years in the First Division.

FERNANDO MORENA'S TV SPECIAL

Fernando Morena's football life will be part of 'Champions of the World', the history of South American Soccer, directed and produced by Roy Hay, and soon to be seen on SBS television.

Morena, who began with River Plate, is the greatest striker of all time in Uruguay, with a record 667 goals scored from November 1969, when he made his debut against Danubio, until December 1984 against Defesnor Sporting, when he retired.

He scored 58 goals for River Plate, 450 for Penarol, 76 for the Uruguayan national team, 32 for Rayo Vallecano and 28 for Valencia (both Spanish First Division sides), 12 for Boca Juniors (Argentina) and another 11 in various international friendly games.

He was a superb player and this should be a terrific television special.

BATISTUTA IS BACK!

Fiorentina striker Gabriel Batistuta will play for Argentina against Colombia in Buenos Aires, in the last round of the South American World Cup qualifying rounds.

The prolific goalscorer was named by coach Passarella in the squad of 18 players. Also in are defender Fernando Caceres and midfielder Christian Gonzales, both back after several months on the outer.

Argentina and Paraguay are joint leaders of the South American group with 29 points each, followed by Colombia with 26. While Argentina faces Colombia, the Paraguayans travel to play Peru in Lima in a crucial game for the Peruvians, who need a win to have any hope of qualifying for France 98

Argentina's squad for the game against Colombia is:
Goalkeepers:
Burgos (River Plate), Roa (Mallorca); Defenders: Ayala (Napoli), Caceres (Zaragoza), Paz (Tenerife), Sensini (Parma), Vivas (Boca Juniors);
Midfielders:
Astrada (River Plate), Bassedas (Velez Sarsfield), Berti (River Plate), Gallardo (River Plate), Gonzalez (Zaragoza), Simeone (Inter Milan), Veron (Sampdoria);
Strikers:
Batistuta (Fiorentina), Crespo (Parma), Lopez (Valencia), Ortega (Valencia).

Batistuta: Back on the international scene.

Everything depends on Chile's result against Bolivia in Santiago. Peru and Chile are equal fourth with 22 points each, but the Chileans have the better goal difference. Ecuador, who face Uruguay in Montevideo, still have a slim chance of going through if they win their game and Peru and Chile each fail to secure a victory.

Bolivia and Uruguay are both already eliminated. The Bolivians drew 1-1 with Chile in La Paz and will do anything to stop their arch-rivals going through, while Uruguay, thrashed 4-0 by Ecuador in Quito (it was the first time a Uruguayan team has ever lost to Ecuador in the history of the qualifying rounds) will be hungry for revenge.

ARGENTINE CLUB WRAP:

River Runs Free

River Plate return to the top of the Argentine national league, first phase, after their 5-2 victory over Platense, while Boca Juniors lost at home to Lanus 0-1.

River Plate, who had lost 2-1 to Boca the week before, showed great character in thrashing Platense away from home.

Youngster Martin Cardetti opened River's account in the second minute with Platense equalising in the 43rd minute through striker Alberto Godoy.

Two minutes later Marcello Gallardo, with a perfect free-kick from the edge of the box, put River 2-1 up.

In the second half, defender Juan Pablo Sorin netted in the 47th and 85th minute, with Cardetti adding another in the 63rd, but Platense's midfielder Fabian Algere pulled back a consolation goal with ten minutes left.

Meanwhile at the La Bombonera Stadium, Boca Juniors lost their unbeaten record when Maradona's former team went down 1-0 to Lanus – midfielder Miguel Clotet scoring the only goal of the match in the 60th minute.

The bad news, however, is the injury to former Argentine international striker Claudio Caniggia, who pulled a muscle in his right leg, and could be out for three to four weeks.

Boca will be without captain Diego Maradona for the rest of the season, who announced his retirement before the game against Lanus.

At the age of 37, Maradona has decided to retire as a player but plans a coaching career in the near future. Good luck Diego.

In another important match, Velez Sarsfield beat Gimnasia y Esgrima of Jujuy 2-1, with goals from striker Carlos Cordone and Paraguayan keeper Jose Luis Chilavert! (penalty), while Bolivian international defender Oscar Sanchez pulled one back with a penalty.

In the local derby, San Lorenzo defeated Independiente 3-1 with strikes from Biaggio, Abreu and Basavilbaso while San Lorenzo and Rojas were the scorers for Independiente.

Other results:

Gimansia y Esgrima La Plata 3 Huracan 0; Gimnasia y Tiro Salat 1 Ferro Carril Oeste 1, Union 1 Rosario Central 0, Newell's Old Boys 3 Colon Santa Fe 2 and Racing 1 Desportivo Espanol 0.

After 11 rounds:

River Plate 25 points; Boca Juniors and Gimansia y Esgrima La Plata 24; Roario Central 22; Velez Sarsfield and San Lorenzo 21; Independiente 17; Estudiantes de La Plata and Argentinos Juniors 16; Ferro Carril Oeste and Colon 13; Lanus 12; Espano and Racing; Gimnasia Jujuy 10; Platense, Union and Newell's 9; Gimnasia y Tiro Salat 8; Huracan 5.

STH AMERICAN CLUB WRAP:

CHILE

Results: Santiago Wanderers 3 Concepcion 2; Palestino 0 Temuco 1; Cobreola 1 Deportes Coquimbo 0; Huachipato 0 Union Espanola 0; La Serena 3 Audax Italiano 1; Puerto Montt 2 Antofagasta 1.

Standings: Universidad Catolica 22 points; Colo Colo 19; Cobreola and Universidad de Chile 18; Audax Italiano and Puerto Montt17; Desportes Osorno 15; Huachipato and Temuco 13; Union Espanola 12; Deportes Coquimbo and Palestino 11; La Serena 10; Antofagasta and Santiago Wanderers 8; Concepcion 7.

VENEZUALA

Results: Carabobo 1 Caracas 1, Deportivo Chacao 1 Llaneros 1, Nacional 0 Atletico Zulia 1, El Vigia 0 Minerven 2, Trujillanos 0 Estudiantes 0, Mineros 0 Tachira 0.

Standings: Zulia 27, Caracas and Chacao 25, Miverven 23, Trujillanos, Carabobo and Tachira 20, Estudiantes and Nacional 17, Mineros 12, Llaneros 11, El Vigia 9.

COLOMBIA

Results: Sante Fe 2 Bucaramanga 1, Unicosta 1 America 1 (Unicosta 7-6 on pens), Caldas 2 Quindio 1, Tulua 2 Junior 1, Magdalena 3 Envigado 0

Deportivo Cali, Millionarios, Atletico Nacional, Bucaramanga, Junior, Caldas, Quindio and Tulua all qualified for the Colombian Championship final round.

BRAZIL

Results: Corinthians 1 Sport 1; Cruzeiro 2 Botafogo 3; Vitoria 2 Santos 0; Juventude 1 Fluminese 1; Palmeiras 3 Goias 3; Bragatino 1 Uniao Joao 0; Parana 1 Atletic Mineiro 0; Gremio 1 Guarani 4; Portuguesa 2 Criciuma 2; America 1 Sao Paulo 3; Flamengo 1 Coritiba 0.

Standings: Vasco da Gama 51 points; Internacional 48; Mineiro and Portuguesa 44; Flamengo 41; Palmeiras 39; Santos 37; Vitoria 36; Juventude and Botafogo 33; Sport, Atletico Panarense and Sao Paolo 32; Parana 31; America 30; Goias 28; Coritiba and Cruzeiro 27; Gremio and Bragatino 26; Bahia 25; Criciuma 24; Corinthians 23; Guarani and Flumises 22; Uniao Sao Joao 14.

SOUTH AMERICAN SUPERCUP

Results of the last round of matches:

Group One:
Colo Colo 2 Boca Juniors 1; Independiente 3 Cruizero 1.

Group Two:
Sao Paulo 4 Olimpia 1.

Group Three:
River Plate 2 Vasco da Gama 0.

Group Four:
Atletico Nacional 3 Gremio 1; Estudiantes de La Plata 3 Penarol 1.

Semi finals:
River Plate v Atletico Nacional and Colo Colo v Sao Paulo.

CONMEBOL CUP

In the Cup reserved for clubs that finished third in their respective championships, defending champion, Lanus of Argentina, will face Atletico Mineiro of Brazil in the final.

Atletico Mineiro defeated Universitario of Peru 2-0 away and 4-0 at home while Lanus beat compatriots Colon de Santa Fe 2-0 at home, and drew 1-1 away.

WORLD STOP PRESS

MARADONA

Retire the No.10

IF ONE of the country's deputies has his way, Argentina's national squad could lose their shirt, but only as a gesture to honour their now retired former World Cup winning skipper Diego Maradona.

The MP, Darci Sampietro, suggested in parliament that Maradona's famous number ten shirt should be withdrawn and added he would be putting the idea to the Argentine Football Association.

"Withdrawing the number ten shirt would be a way of paying permanent homage to the best player in the history of Argentinian football," said Sampietro."

He added that even if Maradona's private life had tarnished his reputation in the eyes of some people, the passion he had engendered as a sportsman should be properly and permanently acknowledged.

Maradona, 37, finally announced his definitive retirement after renewed speculation that he had again tested positive for drugs.

Police Raid Pub

MORE THAN 100 Dutch police raided a Rotterdam pub to prevent trouble between English and Dutch fans in the run-up to last Wednesday night's European Champions' League game.

Police swooped on the Fust public house in the main square where a large group of Feyenoord fans lay in wait for the approaching Manchester United supporters.

A spokesman from Rotterdam Police said a pub window was smashed when a struggle broke out as officers moved in to arrest Dutch fans in a bid to avoid an outbreak of fighting.

"A large group of Dutch fans had been in the pub all afternoon and it would seem that one fan had deliberately tried to guide a group of English fans straight into the pub to start a confrontation," said Inspector Hans Stoop of Rotterdam police.

"Luckily around 100 officers got there just in time to avoid a major clash and four Dutch fans were arrested for minor offences," he added.

A Manchester United fan was injured during a separate incident a short distance away from the pub. He was taken to hospital where he was treated for minor head injuries.

Lalas Goes South

Alexi Lalas, the United States and MLS's New England Revolution defender, has signed with the Ecuadorean club Emelec. Reports suggest that he will join the team on November 23.

ALEXI LALAS

"We have been negotiating to let him play in Ecuador on a one month loan basis," said Derek Aframe.

Lalas, known for his trademark long red hair and beard, played in Italy's Serie A with now-relegated club Padova after the 1994 World Cup.

The Guayaquil-based Emelec stands fourth in Ecuador's top league and is one of the country's most popular teams.

'Live TV' Say FIFA

WORLD SOCCER'S governing body could intervene to make sure the matches of future World Cup Finals are shown live on German public television, FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter said.

"If the political pressure in Germany was to become enormous, FIFA would ask the holders of the rights to make sure the matches are shown live on free-to-air television," Blatter told the weekly Die Zeit newspaper.

Other countries could also be affected, though the article confined itself to the possibility for Germany.

A heated row erupted last year when Bavarian media tycoon Leo Kirch and Swiss-based marketer ISL won global distribution rights to World Cup Finals in 2002 and 2006 from FIFA, raising fears that the events might only be shown on pay TV.

In the battle for the public broadcasters, who cannot afford to keep up with the spiralling costs to obtain broadcasting rights to major sports events, received the backing of state premiers, who are in charge of German media regulation.

"Soccer is practically a staple food in society today," Bavarian premier Edmund Stoiber was quoted as saying last month.

Goal Line Officials

ITALY'S FOOTBALL League has thrown its weight behind a campaign to introduce two new match officials to the game of soccer, a referee at each end just to watch the goalmouth.

The campaign, fuelled by the Italian media, started in the wake of Oliver Bierhoff's phantom 'goal' against Juventus.

Video footage showed the ball had crossed the line from Udinese's German striker, just before Juventus defender Ciro Ferrara's sliding clearance. But neither referee nor linesman were in a position to see the incident.

The Gazzetta dello Sport called for two new officials for every football match, one behind each goalmouth, to check whether the ball crosses the line. The official could also monitor any infringements, such as the infamous case here last season of a player who punched the ball, 'Maradona-style', into the net without the referee noticing.

"Other sports which have far less money, media attention and mass popularity have more match officials," the paper pointed out. 'There are 12 in tennis, seven in volleyball and five in basketball and hockey.

'So why can't football introduce a goalmouth referee?'

The Gazzetta, Italy's biggest-selling newspaper, claimed that the sport's ruling body, FIFA, is also considering the idea of extra match officials, along with a more technology-based solution to the problem.

However, the campaign took a major step forward when Italian League president Franco Carraro threw his weight behind it.

"I think it's a valid idea," he told the paper. "It would avoid phantom goals like Bierhoff's and also other situations.

"But the decision would have to be down to FIFA."

Highlighting what is at stake in the modern game, he went on: "Up till now, the rules of football have always been the same throughout the world, for every kind of match.

"A World Cup Final with a television audience of two billion people is played exactly the same way as a game between two local parish teams.

"The question now is, 'Do FIFA want to make a distinction between top level football and the rest?' "

Giving his own answer, Carraro said: "I think it's right to make a few changes for the game at the highest level, to try and keep refereeing errors to a minimum with the help of something else."

Edmundo Dropped

BRAZILIAN EDMUNDO was dropped from the national team again, following an elbowing incident in which he was sent-off for the sixth time this year.

Brazil coach Mario Zagallo, who recalled striker Muller after an absence of three years, omitted Edmundo from the squad for tonight's friendly against Wales in Brasilia.

Edmundo, scorer of 24 goals in 20 games for Vasco da Gama in the Brazilian championship, had managed to stay out of trouble for nearly two months until he elbowed River Plate goalkeeper German Burgos.

The South American Super Cup tie against the Argentine side was eventually abandoned amid chaos after Vasco had another player sent-off and assorted objects were hurled at a linesman, who was carried off injured after being struck.

The Vasco player infuriated Zagallo on his last appearance for his country in the Copa America final against Bolivia.

On that occasion, Edmundo, who scored Brazil's first goal in a 3-1 win, also elbowed an opponent. The referee did not see the incident but Zagallo immediately substituted him.

Zagallo had hinted he would relent as Edmundo knocked in the goals while maintaining a media silence and keeping out of trouble.

Since the incident, radio and television programs have been deluged with polls asking viewers and listeners to vote if Edmundo deserved to be recalled.

Muller won the last of his 54 caps during the 1994 World Cup when he came on as a substitute against Cameroon. His recall is a reward for consistently performing well for Santos.

Brazil, who beat Morocco 2-0 in their last game in October, have clocked up 11 successive wins since drawing with Italy in the Tournoi de France in June. However, they were beaten 1-0 in Cardiff in their last meeting with Wales in 1991.

Some players, including Ronaldo, Roberto Carlos and Juninho, have been left out because they have already used up, or are close to using up, the quota of five friendlies for which their clubs are obliged to release them in a year.

World Cup Timings

THE WORLD CUP Final, on July 12, will begin at 3pm, the same starting time as the two previous World Cups in the United States and Italy.

FIFA and the French organisers have announced the kick-off times for the 64-game tournament, which starts on June 10. Both semi-finals and the third-place game also will start at 3pm.

For the 48 matches in the first round, games will start at 8.30am, 10am, 11.30am and 3pm, although, times were assigned for each game, FIFA said it may modify them after the draw at Marseille, France, on Dec 4 to suit international television networks.

In the second round and quarter-finals, games will start at 10:30am and 3pm.

Apart from Bordeaux, all ten sites will have at least one evening match.

Bordeaux's six matches will be played in the afternoon or early evening because of lighting conditions.

The final will be played in the new 80,000 stadium at Saint-Denis, a Paris suburb. The semi-finals will be played at Saint-Denis and Marseille.

Beaten ... Twice

IRAQ'S SOCCER federation was cleared of charges the national soccer team was punished and beaten after its elimination from their World Cup qualifiers.

FIFA, world soccer's governing body, said it "found no evidence to support the accusations" and considers the matter closed after ordering the investigation in late July after reports that Uday Hussein, Saddam's feared eldest son and the head of the Iraqi Soccer Federation, disciplined the team after it lost to Kazakhstan and missed a spot in next year's World Cup in France.

Iraqi dissidents had claimed that Hussein Jnr ordered the players to be imprisoned and tortured and to have their hair and moustaches shaved off on their return to Iraq. A London newspaper separately reported they were beaten on their feet and backs.

Iraq dismissed the charges as "fabricated stories aimed at harming the reputation of the president's son."

The world body sent two experts, from Malaysia and Qatar, to check the reports. They questioned soccer federation officials and the team coach. They also interviewed and physically examined 12 players for any signs of mistreatment.

Iraqi officials cited logistical reasons, including their travel schedules, as to why to alleged abuses could not have occurred, said FIFA.

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